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Wind could ground big balloons at NYC's Thanksgiving parade

By MICHAEL R. SISAK

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Smokey Bear might feel like he's battling Santa Ana winds — if he even gets a chance to fly.

New York City's big Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will take place Thursday amid strong winds that could potentially ground the giant character balloons, which have caused mishaps and injuries in the past when gusts have blown them off course.

The New York City Police Department is monitoring wind gauges along the 2.5-mile (3.2-kilometer) parade route and will order the 16 helium-filled balloons to a lower altitude or have them removed entirely if wind speeds reach dangerous levels.

That's only happened once, in 1971.



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A volunteer shoulders a helium hose as balloons are inflated Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019, the day before the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York.

Associated Press



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Workers carry a helium hose as the Diary of a Wimpy Kid balloon is inflated, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019 in New York.

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Continued from Front

The National Weather Service is projecting sustained winds of up to 24 mph (39 kph) with gusts to 40 mph (64 kph) during the parade. The iconic characters that soar between Manhattan skyscrapers will be grounded if sustained winds exceed 23 mph (37 kph) and gusts exceed 34 mph (54.7 kph) under city rules implemented after wind blew a "Cat in the Hat" balloon into a lamp post near Central Park in 1997, critically injuring a woman.

"It'll be a game-day decision on what we're going to do with the balloons," Chief of Department Terence Monahan said at a Wednesday briefing on the police department's parade safety measures.

If they're allowed to fly this year, the intensity of the wind will determine how high they soar. Each bal-

loon has a distinct risk profile, which factors in its size and weight and details the optimal altitude for a given wind speed.

The character balloons can go as high as 55 feet (16 meters) off the ground and as low as 10 feet (3 meters), said Chief of Patrol Rodney Harrison, who has the final say on whether the balloons fly.

If the wind picks up and handlers struggle to keep control of a balloon, potentially putting spectators in harm's way, Harrison said it will be taken to a side street off the parade route and safely deflated.

"At the end of the day, public safety is paramount, and we want everybody to enjoy the event," he said. Strong winds were also a concern last year, but they ended up staying calm enough to let the balloons fly — albeit some at noticeably lower-than-usual heights. The outstretched hand of the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" balloon, for one, was so low it appeared to hit some of his handlers on their wool cap-covered heads.

One bright spot in this year's forecast: the temperature is expected to hit a high of about 53 degrees Fahrenheit (12 degrees Celsius). Last year was one of the city's coldest Thanksgivings in decades. A temperature of 21 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 6 degrees Celsius) at the start of the parade prompted spectators to bundle up in blankets and sleeping bags.

In addition to giant balloons of Snoopy, Spongebob, anti-wildfire warrior Smokey and others, the parade features about 8,000 marchers, performances from bands and singers such as Idina Menzel of "Frozen" fame, Kelly Rowland and Chicago, two dozen floats and a finale with Santa Claus.

The NYPD will have thousands of officers stationed along the parade route. They include counterterrorism teams with long guns, plainclothes officers mixed in with the crowd and about three dozen explosive detection K-9s. The department also plans to fly a drone to monitor the parade route.

All spectators will be screened with metal detectors at security checkpoints. Certain areas near the start and finish are off-limits or will have space taken up by staging for NBC's live broadcast.

Police cars and sand-filled sanitation trucks are being positioned to stop vehicles from driving into the crowd and technology is being used to detect drones, which are illegal to fly over crowds in New York City.

Counterterrorism Chief James Waters said the technology detected several drones flying in the vicinity of the United Nations General Assembly gathering in September. They were all non-hostile, he said. There are no known, credible threats to the city, police said.

A threat posted over the weekend on Reddit threatening to bomb Times Square was deemed not credible, the police department said, though it did increase counterterrorism deployments to the area out of what it said was an abundance of caution. Big crowds are expected to line the parade route, which runs 46 blocks from the outskirts of Central Park to Macy's flagship store in midtown Manhattan.

In the past, spectators have lined up as many as 15 deep in some places. In 2017, four activists briefly disrupted things when they jumped over barriers and sat down in the street to protest changes in U.S. immigration policy. □

Winter storm threatens to scramble Thanksgiving travel plans

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A day after bringing havoc to the Rocky Mountains, a powerful winter storm rolled across the Midwest on Wednesday, threatening to scramble Thanksgiving plans for millions of people during one of the busiest travel weeks of the year. The storm, which was blamed for one death and hundreds of canceled flights, pushed east into South Dakota, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. It dropped close to a foot of snow in some areas even as the system weakened and headed toward New York and Pennsylvania.

But the West was not free of heavy weather. A "bomb cyclone" caused by a rapid drop in air pressure brought snow to the mountains and wind and rain along the California and Oregon coasts. Drivers on Interstate 5 near the Oregon-California border spent 17 hours or more in stopped traffic as blizzard conditions whirled outside. Some slept in their vehicles.

"It's one of those things, you couldn't make it up if

you tried," National Weather Service meteorologist Brent Hewett said of back-to-back storms forming around the holiday.

Christina Williams and her 13-year-old son, who live in Portland, Oregon, got stuck in the storm as they tried to drive to the San Francisco area for Thanksgiving. Williams said she and other stranded drivers connected on Twitter using weather-related hashtags and began to communicate to find out what conditions were like in other parts of the backup.

"There were spinouts everywhere. There were trucks that were abandoned. And every time we stopped and started moving again, there were people who couldn't start moving again," Williams said. "Every time we stopped I was like, 'Is this it? Are we going to be here overnight?'"

It took more than 17 hours to reach Redding, California, where they got a hotel room, she said.

Snow and downed trees and power lines closed roads. Others were reduced to a single lane,

transportation officials said. Northbound lanes of Interstate 5, which runs parallel to the coast, were reopened later Wednesday from Redding, California all the way to the Oregon border. The southbound lanes at Ashland, Oregon, reopened earlier in the day. Transportation officials and other agencies tried to communicate the seriousness of the storm, but many drivers were still caught by surprise, said Don Anderson, deputy director of the California Department of Transportation in Redding.

Minneapolis awoke to as much as 9 inches of snow. Drivers were warned to stay off the roads at least until the winds died down.

"If you can wait a little bit today, the better off you'll be because the roads will be being cleared, and our snow is pretty much wrapping up," said Tyler Hasenstein, a weather service meteorologist in Minneapolis.

At the city's main airport, Delta Air Lines filled de-icing tanks, called in extra flight dispatchers and assigned some of its 20 in-house me-



In this photo taken Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019, provided by Caltrans, are cars and trucks in stopped traffic on Interstate 5 near Dunsmuir, Calif.

Associated Press

teorologists to focus on the forecast.

Airport spokesman Patrick Hogan said three runways were open Wednesday, but Federal Aviation Administration data showed that travelers were still experiencing delays of more than an hour.

At Chicago's O'Hare Airport, one of the nation's busiest, the FAA said heavy traffic was causing delays of up to 30 minutes and rising. Airlines worried that things could get worse if winds picked up.

In the city's Loop business district, high winds peeled a wooden sign off scaffolding at Willis Tower. The sign slammed into two vehicles and smashed a window, hurting a cab driver, who was taken to a hospital with an arm injury, police said.

The northern reaches of Wisconsin saw 7 to 10 inches of snow, with more coming down. The Milwaukee airport reported wind and rain, but there was no snow within a hundred miles of the city.

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Ruckelshaus, who defied Nixon in Watergate firing, dies

By GENE JOHNSON

SEATTLE (AP) — William Doyle Ruckelshaus, who famously quit his job in the U.S. Justice Department rather than carry out President Richard Nixon's order to fire the special prosecutor investigating the Watergate scandal, has died. He was 87.

Ruckelshaus served as the first administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which confirmed his death in a statement Wednesday.

The lifelong Republican also served as acting director of the FBI. But his moment of fame came on Oct. 20, 1973, when he was a deputy attorney general and joined his boss, Attorney General Elliot Richardson, in resigning rather than carry out Nixon's unlawful order to fire Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox.

After Richardson and Ruckelshaus resigned, Solicitor General Robert Bork carried out the firing in what became known as the "Saturday Night Massacre" — prompting protests and outrage around the country. Impeachment proceedings against Nixon began 10 days later.

"He was incorruptible," longtime friend and Seattle philanthropist Martha Kongsgaard said Wednesday of Ruckelshaus. "It was very disappointing for him to see this happening again in our country, and maybe on a larger scale. Deep decency in the face of corruption is needed now more than ever."

Ruckelshaus' civic service and business career spanned decades and U.S. coasts, marked by two stints at the EPA under Nixon and Ronald Reagan, a failed U.S. Senate bid in

1968 and top positions at Weyerhaeuser Co. and Browning-Ferris Industries. Ruckelshaus spent much of his life focused on air and water pollution and other environmental issues. As a young Indiana state attorney general, he sought court orders to prevent industries and cities from polluting waters, and in his later years, he was the Pacific Northwest's most high-profile advocate for cleaning up Puget Sound in Washington state.

As the first EPA administrator from 1970 to 1973, he won praise for pushing automakers to tighten controls on air pollution. Shortly after taking over the agency, he ordered the mayors of Detroit, Atlanta and Cleveland to stop polluting waters and took actions against U.S. Steel and dozens of other water polluters. Reagan asked him back to the EPA in 1983 to help restore public trust after the prior administrator — Anne M. Gorsuch, mother of current Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch — was held in contempt of Congress for refusing to turn over documents about her agency's allegedly lax efforts to clean up toxic waste.

Ruckelshaus' wife, Jill, likened his return to a "self-inflicted Heimlich maneuver," but Ruckelshaus said he accepted the job because he thought he could right the ship, help staff refocus on their work and reestablish the EPA's credibility. Several thousand EPA employees greeted his return with thunderous applause. One sign read, "How do you spell relief? Ruckelshaus."

Reflecting on his long career of public service and private enterprise in 2001, Ruckelshaus ranked his time at the EPA as one of

the most fulfilling and challenging.

"At EPA, you worked for a cause that is beyond self-interest and larger than the goals people normally pursue," he said in an EPA oral history interview. "You're not there for the money, you're there for something beyond yourself."

In recent years, Ruckelshaus joined other former EPA directors in championing the agency against cuts or efforts to curtail its authority. In an interview with The Associated Press last year, his criticism of President Donald Trump's moves to roll back environmental protections and give more regulatory power to the states was withering.

He said some states don't have the resources to police big polluters, and others lack the will.

"The reason that the ultimate authority to enforce the law was put into federal hands was because the states weren't any good at it," Ruckelshaus said. "The idea that you're going to delegate it to the states ... is completely fraudulent."

Ruckelshaus was born in 1932 in Indianapolis to a line of politically active lawyers. His grandfather had been the Indiana chairman of the Republican Party in 1900, and his father was the platform committee chairman at five Republican Conventions.

He told The Los Angeles Times in 1971 that his personal interest in nature and conservation was rooted in his childhood when his father took him fishing in northern Michigan.

Between his stints at the EPA, Ruckelshaus moved his family and five children to the Seattle area where he had spent two years out



In this May 15, 1973, file photo, then-acting FBI director William Doyle Ruckelshaus pauses during a news conference in Washington.

Associated Press

of high school as an army drill sergeant at the Fort Lewis. He graduated from Princeton University and Harvard Law School.

He met his wife on a blind date set up by her Sunday school teacher. It took place at his aunt and uncle's house in Indianapolis, where they both grew up. In the Northwest, Ruckelshaus led federal efforts to recover Chinook salmon and steered an ambitious state initiative to clean up

and restore Puget Sound, where salmon and orcas are in danger.

His focus on a collaborative science-based process helped set the course for the Puget Sound Partnership, the state agency charged with cleaning up the inland waters by 2020. His daughter, Mary Ruckelshaus, served as the agency's chief scientist at the same time her father led the leadership council that oversaw it. □

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Utah banning 'conversion therapy' with Mormon church backing

By BRADY McCOMBS

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah is on its way to becoming the 19th state to ban the discredited practice of conversion therapy in January after state officials formed a proposal that has the support of the influential Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Republican Gov. Gary Herbert announced Tuesday night that church leaders back a regulatory rule his office helped craft after legislative efforts for a ban on the therapy failed earlier this year.

The faith known widely as the Mormon church opposed a previous version of the rule because it wanted assurances that church leaders and members who are therapists would be allowed to provide spiritual counseling for parishioners or families — which were included in the latest conversion therapy ban plan.

The faith opposes gay marriage and teaches that intimate same-sex relationships are a sin. The religion has stuck to that belief while urging members to be kind and compassionate to LGBTQ people.

Conversion therapy is a practice used to try to change peoples' sexual orientation or gender identity. The rule would ban Utah therapists from subjecting LGBTQ minors to the practice that the American Psychological Association has said is not based in science and is harmful to mental health. The Utah rule proposal is set to go to a 30-day public comment period beginning Dec. 15 and take effect as soon as Jan. 22, Herbert said.

The success in getting the church's crucial support for the regulatory rule gener-



In this Jan. 3, 2018, file photo, the angel Moroni statue, silhouetted against the sky, sits atop the Salt Lake Temple at Temple Square in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

ated praise from LGBTQ advocates and conversion therapy survivors who had expressed frustration with the yearlong battle in Utah to ban conversion therapy. The rule uses language from a state legislative proposal that failed this year despite church leaders saying they would not oppose it.

"It means youth will be getting adequate services that will help them rather than harm them," said Nathan Dalley, 20, who had conversion therapy when he was 16. "This is a change that's been needed for so long. It's too late, but I'm happy it is here."

Dalley grew up as a member of the Latter-day Saint faith and said he was told during his therapy to snap a rubber band on his wrist every time he felt attracted to men. His therapist also scrutinized his posture, his walk, his gestures and interests. Dalley said the experience deepened his feelings of depression and culminated

in a suicide attempt several months after the therapy.

Church government affairs director Marty Stephens reiterated in the governor's news release that the faith denounces conversion therapy and wants a ban. He said in an interview with The Associated Press last month that the faith doesn't ascribe to "pray the gay away" thinking but that prayer and religious teachings can be helpful to people trying to navigate life's challenges.

The religion holds tremendous influence in Utah, where the majority of state lawmakers and nearly two-thirds of the state's 3.1 million residents are members of the faith. Herbert is a member and so are all six members of the state's congressional delegation, including U.S. Sen. Mitt Romney.

The church had said in an Oct. 15 letter to state regulators that it would support a "carefully tailored" rule

to ban "abusive" practices like conversion therapy but contended an earlier regulatory proposal banning the practice defined sexual orientation and efforts to change sexual orientation so broadly that it "would imperil legitimate and helpful therapies to the detriment of minor clients."

For example, the church had claimed the bill would have prohibited therapists from discussing strategies for avoiding same-sex intimacy when young people seek help to adhere to the faith's teachings.

The revised rule stipulates that the ban doesn't apply to clergy members or religious counselors acting in a religious capacity, or to

a parents or grandparents who happen to be a mental health therapist if they are talking to children or grandchildren.

Justin Utley, 42, who attempted suicide more than a decade ago after going through conversion therapy, said he's concerned about the exceptions granted to the church even but said the new rule is a positive step.

"Progress is progress in this state. You kind of have to make some compromises," Utley said. "My concern, though, is clergy who are licensed professionals having this ability to justify conversion therapy by claiming that they've turned off the switch and now are acting as a clergy member instead of a licensed professional. That's a very dangerous precedent."

During a public hearing about the rule in September, Utley and other supporters of a conversion therapy ban said enduring the therapy led to shame, depression and suicide attempts. Opponents argued that the rule would prevent parents from getting help for children with "unwanted" gay feelings or even from talking about sexuality with their kids.

Herbert said "the stories of youth who have endured these so-called therapies are heart rending."

He added: "I'm grateful that we have found a way forward that will ban conversion therapy forever in our state." □

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No more menthol cigarettes: New ban on tobacco, vape flavors

By PHILIP MARCELO

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Massachusetts became the first state to ban flavored tobacco and nicotine vaping products, including menthol cigarettes, after Republican Gov. Charlie Baker signed into law on Wednesday a bill that's meant to reduce the appeal of the products to young people amid a rash of illnesses and deaths linked to vaping.

Anti-smoking groups hailed the ban, which restricts sale and consumption of flavored vaping products immediately and does the same for menthol cigarettes starting June 1, 2020. "The Massachusetts law is a major milestone in the fight to reverse the worsening e-cigarette epidemic and stop tobacco companies from targeting and addicting kids with flavored products," said Matthew Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

But the New England Convenience Store and Energy Marketers Association, which opposed the legislation, said it's exploring challenging the new law in court, or seeking other ways to change it.

"Public health and safety has been dealt a blow by anti-tobacco crusaders exploiting a youth vaping crisis, and by lawmakers bypassing prudent policy-making," the group said in a statement.

In recent months, Massachusetts and other states, including Michigan, Montana, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah and Washington, have temporarily banned or restricted the sale of vaping prod-



In this Nov. 6, 2014, file photo, a man smokes a cigarette on Main Street in Westminster, Mass.

Associated Press

ucts. But Massachusetts is now the first with a broad, permanent ban in place on all flavored tobacco or nicotine vaping products, anti-smoking groups say. The new law specifically restricts sale of the products to licensed smoking bars such as cigar bars and hookah lounges, where they'll only be allowed to be consumed on-site. The restriction extends to menthol cigarettes and flavored e-cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco and chewing tobacco.

It also places a 75% excise tax on nicotine vaping products, gives public health officials new authority to regulate the products and requires health insurers cover tobacco cessation counseling. Baker said he hopes other states adopt similar restrictions but argued that the federal Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration are the only ones that can address the issue comprehensively for the nation.

"Sometimes someone has to go first," he said. "It's pretty clear there isn't going to be a federal policy on this anytime soon. So, in the absence of that, we had to act."

President Donald Trump has promised for months to approve a national ban on most flavored e-cigarettes. But in recent weeks his administration has walked back that promise, canceling a planned announcement of a ban in favor of private meetings with the vaping industry and medical professionals.

Massachusetts' decision to extend the ban to menthol is unique.

The mint flavor has typically been exempt from such re-

strictions because it's long been one of the most popular flavors.

Menthols were omitted from legislation passed by the New York City Council on Tuesday after advocates, including the Rev. Al Sharpton, argued their inclusion could lead to harsh police enforcement in the black community.

Studies have shown menthol cigarettes are consumed disproportionately by young people and minorities, and anti-tobacco groups and health experts have argued menthol has been marketed to African Americans.

But there have been recent signs that reluctance to address menthol is waning.

Boston health officials earlier this week prohibited the sale of menthols in convenience stores, and dozens of other communities in Massachusetts and California have taken steps to restrict menthols and other flavored cigarettes.

State Attorney General Maura Healey and other supporters said that restricting menthols and other flavored tobacco products is critical because they've contributed to growth in the traditional smoking market, which in turn prompted the creation of flavored vaping products targeted at youths.

The American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network said it hoped the new law sends a message to the industry.

"More than 80% of teens who have ever used a tobacco product started with a flavored product, and the tobacco industry knows this," the organization said in an emailed statement.

The legislation responds to growing concern about the health effects of vaping products, including deaths whose exact cause is still being investigated.

Massachusetts health officials say there have been more than 200 suspected cases of vaping-related lung injury and three confirmed deaths in the state.

In September, Baker declared a public health emergency and ordered a temporary ban on the sale of all vaping products — flavored and unflavored.

Baker said Wednesday he'll lift that ban a few weeks early on Dec. 11, when state health officials are expected to roll out additional regulations.

The Tobacco Merchants Association, an industry group, didn't respond to an email seeking comment. □

Remains confirmed as UFC fighters' stepdaughter

By KIM CHANDLER

Human remains discovered in a wooded area have been confirmed as belonging to a missing college student who was the stepdaughter of a well-known UFC fighter, Alabama authorities announced Wednesday.

The Auburn Police Department said the Department of Forensic Sciences confirmed the remains belong to Aniah Blanchard, 19. She was the stepdaughter of UFC fighter Walt Harris.

Police said they were making the announcement with "heavy hearts" as the month-long search came to a close. Blanchard's disappearance is now a homicide investigation and additional charges will be filed, police said.

"I am heartbroken for the

Continued from Page 3

On Tuesday, weather-related damage and delays were widespread.

About 10 inches (25 centimeters) of snow mixed with winds that limited visibility and canceled about 30% of the 1,600 average daily flights at Denver's main airport.

Southwest Airlines canceled about 200 flights. Spokesman Brad Hawkins said it would take a couple of days to rebook stranded passengers on other flights because there are few empty seats during the pre-Thanksgiving travel crush.

About 1,100 people spent the night at the airport, spokeswoman Alex Renteria said.

Airport workers handed out blankets, diapers, baby formula, toothbrushes and toothpaste to passengers who camped out on floors and in chairs.

One person was killed near the ski town of Vail when a tractor-trailer jackknifed and was hit by two other trucks on Interstate 70.

Before it's over, the system's effects could extend all the way to New England, where a chance of snow was possible over the weekend, the weather service said.

family of Aniah Blanchard," Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey said in a statement. "Like Alabamians across our state, I was praying for a much different outcome. I will be keeping them in my prayers and ask the people of Alabama to continue to do so as well."

Blanchard was last seen Oct. 23 in Auburn, Alabama, at a gas station. Her black Honda CRV was found abandoned days

later more than 50 miles (90 kilometers) away at an apartment complex in Montgomery. Police said her blood was found in the car.

Police announced Monday that human remains were found in a wooded area in neighboring Macon County. They said that investigative leads led them to search that location.

Ibraheem Yazeed, 29, is currently being held with-

out bond on kidnapping charges in the teen's disappearance. Police charged two other men with either helping dispose of evidence or hindering the investigation.

A man at the convenience store where she was last seen told investigators he saw Yazeed force Blanchard into her car and drive away, according to Auburn police detective Josh Mixon. □



This undated file photo released by police in Auburn, Ala., shows Aniah Blanchard. Associated Press



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November 28, 2019

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- Assorted rolls & butter

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- Prime rib served with rosemary demi-glace

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- Live cooking with Chef Sandro

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Labour says U.K. health service 'for sale' in U.S. trade talks

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's health system became a battleground in the country's election campaign on Wednesday, as opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn accused Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson of secretly seeking a post-Brexit trade deal with the United States that would drive up the cost of drugs and imperil the state-funded service.

With the future of the National Health Service a hot issue in campaigning ahead of the Dec. 12 general election, Corbyn waved 451 pages of documents at a press conference declaring that they covered six rounds of negotiations between U.S. and U.K. negotiators over two years from July 2017. The documents, which have previously been published in redacted form, cover preliminary soundings ahead of formal trade talks that are set to begin once Britain leaves the European Union.

Corbyn said the leaked trade dossier provided proof Johnson was planning to put the National Health Service "up for sale" in trade talks.

"He tried to cover it up in a secret agenda and today it has been exposed," Corbyn said.

Johnson — who was not prime minister for most of the period when the talks took place — rejected the claim.

"It is a total nonsense, and



Britain's Labour party leader Jeremy Corbyn poses with documents after his speech in London, England, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019, ahead of the general election on Dec. 12.

Associated Press

it is endlessly repeated by the Labour Party, that the NHS is somehow up for sale," Johnson said. "Nothing could be further from the truth."

Labour is campaigning heavily on the claim that the overstretched but treasured NHS is not safe in Conservative hands.

Though the claim that the health service as a whole could be up for sale after Brexit is overstated, Labour is hoping to tap into concerns that the Conservatives will be looking for a bigger role for the private sector in the NHS's future.

The leaked documents do bolster Labour's claim that health care could be a bargaining chip in U.S.-U.K. trade talks. At present, the NHS can often negotiate low prices from drug companies because it is so big. In future negotiations the U.S. could try to demand during trade talks that Britain pay American pharmaceutical firms more for drugs. It could also push for extended patents that would prevent Britons buying cheaper generic versions of U.S.-patented drugs — something

that happened in talks on a U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade deal.

Corbyn cited the drug Humira, which is used to treat a variety of ailments, including rheumatoid arthritis and Crohn's disease. He said the NHS pays 1,409 pounds (\$1,814) a packet, way lower than the equivalent price in the United States of 8,115 pounds.

"We are talking here about secret talks for a deal with Donald Trump after Brexit. A deal that will shape our country's future," he said.

The leaked documents covered more than pharmaceutical issues, offering insight into how the Trump administration saw post-Brexit trade. Other discussions focused on agriculture, chlorinated chicken and food labeling.

The documents also suggested that a post-Brexit deal between the U.K. and the EU that kept Britain closely aligned with the European economy would come at the cost of a special free trade agreement with the United States.

According to the documents revealed by Corbyn,

the U.S. trade representative made clear that a U.K. commitment to the EU's customs union and single market would make a U.K.-U.S. free trade agreement "a non-starter."

Labour was struggling to push the focus of the election onto domestic issues and away from allegations that Corbyn — a longtime champion of the Palestinians — has allowed anti-Jewish prejudice to fester in the left-of-center party.

On Monday, Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis accused Corbyn of allowing the "poison" of anti-Semitism to take root in his party and said "the very soul of our nation is at stake" in the Dec. 12 election.

Corbyn condemned anti-Jewish prejudice and said he was rooting it out of the party — but declined four times during a BBC television interview Tuesday to apologize to British Jews. While Johnson says Corbyn's record on anti-Semitism makes him unfit to lead the country, the prime minister has been accused of making racist remarks and of failing to check anti-Mu-

lim prejudice in Conservative ranks.

In a newspaper column last year, Johnson compared women who wear face-covering veils to "letter boxes."

Johnson said Wednesday he was sorry for any "hurt and offense that has been caused" by Islamophobia in the party.

Sayeeda Warsi, a former co-chairwoman of the Conservative Party who now sits in the House of Lords, said Johnson's words were "a good start." But she said the party had dragged its feet on confronting anti-Muslim prejudice.

"Indeed, we saw that when Boris made those crass comments around Muslim women wearing the niqab, that many Muslim women, visibly Muslim women, were subsequently attacked on our streets," Warsi told the BBC.

Johnson hopes to secure a majority in the election so he can get Parliament to ratify the Brexit divorce deal he negotiated last month with the EU. Under the terms of that deal, the U.K. would leave the EU on Jan. 31 but remain in the European single market and the customs union until the end of 2020.

After Brexit, Britain and the EU will begin discussions on their future relationship. Johnson has insisted that he will be able to secure an agreement by the end of 2020 — a timescale that many trade experts find unrealistic.

In a letter published in the Daily Telegraph on Wednesday, a dozen trade experts accused U.K. politicians of setting "arbitrary deadlines" and making unrealistic promises about future trade deals.

The letter, whose signatories include Alan Winters of the U.K. Trade Observatory and David Tinline, a former senior adviser to the World Trade Organization's director-general, said that "if the U.K. wants to benefit from high quality trade deals and to lead on the global stage, a major shift in approach is required. It's time to get serious." □

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Chemical weapons watchdog adds Novichok to banned list

By MIKE CORDER

THE HAGUE, Netherlands

(AP) — Member states of the global chemical weapons watchdog agreed Wednesday to update their list of banned substances for the first time by adding the nerve agent used in the attempted assassination last year of a former Russian double agent.

The decision to add Novichok nerve agents to the Chemical Weapons Convention was reached by consensus at the annual meeting of the 193 member states of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Novichok joins agents in-

cluding sarin, ricin and sulfur mustard on the convention's so-called Schedule 1 of banned substances.

The change was proposed by the United States, Canada and the Netherlands.

In months of discussions leading up to this week's meeting, Russia initially objected to the proposed changes but later relented after it also proposed adding chemicals to the banned list. Moscow's proposal also was adopted by consensus.

Officials at the Russian Embassy didn't return a call seeking details of their proposal and the OPCW didn't elaborate on it.

The convention, which outlaws the production and use of chemical weapons, came into force in 1997.

Novichok was developed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War. It rose to infamy when it was used in the attempted assassination in March 2018 of Russian spy turned double agent Sergei Skripal.

Britain accused Russia of the March 2018 attack on Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, in the English town of Salisbury. Moscow denied involvement.

Dutch Foreign Minister Stef Blok said in a tweet: "I fully support this strong response to the #Salisbury chemical



This Friday May 5, 2017 file photo shows the headquarters of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), The Hague, Netherlands.

Associated Press

attack!"

OPCW Director-General Fernando Arias welcomed the decision after the chairman of the annual meeting banged his gavel to indicate that the proposal had been approved without a vote.

"This is the first time in its history that the Chemical

Weapons Convention's Annex on Chemicals has been updated," Arias said. "This is an important development that demonstrates the adaptability of the convention to changing threats while enhancing the OPCW's ability to remain vigilant, agile, and fit for purpose." □

UN: Measles cases spike in numerous outbreaks worldwide

LONDON (AP) — The World Health Organization says cases of measles are continuing to spike globally, with multiple large outbreaks being reported across Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

In an update on Wednesday, the U.N. health agency said Congo has reported more than 250,000 suspected cases this year, including 5,110 deaths. In Europe, there have been more than 56,000 cases in

Ukraine. Sizeable outbreaks have also been reported in Brazil, Bangladesh and elsewhere.

WHO noted that two large epidemics in New York are over but small outbreaks elsewhere in the U.S. continue. As of Nov. 5, there were more than 440,200 measles cases worldwide reported to WHO. In 2018, there were about 350,000 cases. Measles is among the most infectious diseases and can be prevented with two doses of vaccine. □



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Officials: Iraq protesters burn down Iran consulate in Najaf

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Anti-government protesters burned down an Iranian consulate building in southern Iraq on Wednesday, while six protesters were killed by security forces who fired live rounds amid ongoing violence in the country, Iraqi officials said Wednesday. Protesters torched the consulate in the holy city of Najaf in the evening. One protester was killed and at least 35 people were wounded when police fired live ammunition to prevent them from entering the building, a police official said.

The demonstrators removed the Iranian flag from the building and replaced it with an Iraqi one. Iranian staff were not harmed and escaped the building from the back door and authorities imposed a curfew in Najaf. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The incident marked an escalation in the demonstrations that have raged in Baghdad and across the mostly Shiite southern Iraq since Oct. 1. The protesters accuse the Shiite-led government of being hopelessly corrupt and complain of poor public services and high unemployment. They are also decrying growing Iranian influence in Iraqi state affairs.

Protesters previously at-



Anti-government protesters gather near barriers set up by security forces to close Rasheed Street during clashes in Baghdad, Iraq.

Associated Press

tacked the Iranian consulate in Karbala earlier this month, scaling concrete barriers running the building.

Security forces have fired bullets, tear gas and smoke bombs on a near daily basis since the unrest began. At least 350 people have been killed and thousands wounded in what has become the largest grassroots protest movement in Iraq's modern history.

Two protesters were killed and 35 wounded when security forces fired live rounds to disperse them from Baghdad's historic Ra-

sheed Street, security and hospital officials said.

The street, which is adjacent to the strategic Ahrar Bridge, has been the focus of violence for a full week, with near daily incidents of deaths as a result of security forces using live ammunition and tear gas to keep demonstrators from advancing beyond a concrete barrier.

Protesters are occupying three key bridges in central Baghdad - Jumhuriya, Ahrar and Sinar - in a standoff with security forces. On Wednesday, they also burned tires on Ahrar

Bridge to block security forces from accessing the area.

The burning of the Iranian consulate followed tense days in southern Iraq, where protesters have burned tires and cut access to main roads in several provinces. In Karbala, four protesters were killed by live fire from security forces in the previous 24 hours.

Three of the anti-government protesters were killed when security forces fired live rounds to disperse crowds in the holy city of Karbala late Tuesday, security and medical officials

said. One protester died of wounds suffered when a tear gas canister struck him in clashes earlier in the day. Protesters have largely kept away from threatening Iraq's economy, but in the southern city of Basra daily closures of the two main Gulf commodities port has caused disruptions to trade activity, a port official said. Protesters continued to cut major roads to Umm Qasr and Khor al-Zubair ports on Wednesday, reducing trade activity by 50%, according to the port official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters.

Protesters also blocked roads leading to major oil fields in West Qurna and Rumaila. A senior oil ministry official said crude production was not impacted by the closures.

Three simultaneous explosions rocked Baghdad late Tuesday, killing five people and wounding more than a dozen, Iraqi officials said, in the first apparent co-ordinated attack since anti-government protests erupted. The bombings took place far from Baghdad's Tahrir Square, the epicenter of weeks of anti-government protests that have posed the biggest security challenge to Iraq since the defeat of the Islamic State group. □

Assad: IS members in Syrian Kurds jails to stand local trial



In this Feb. 10, 2015, file photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrian President Bashar Assad gestures during an interview in Damascus, Syria.

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syrian President Bashar Assad said in remarks published Wednesday that members of the Islamic State group held in the country will stand trial in local courts specialized in terrorism cases.

Assad made his comments in an interview with Paris Match when asked about a deal with a Kurdish-led force that would eventually bring their areas under government control. The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, who defeated IS in March with the help of the U.S.-led coalition, are holding more than 10,000 militants, mostly Syrians and

Iraqis, including some 2,000 foreigners.

Abandoned by their U.S. allies, the Kurds turned to Assad and Russia for protection and over the past weeks Syrian and Russian forces have moved into areas once held by Kurds.

Syrian authorities are holding hundreds of IS members who were captured in battles between government forces and the extremists over the past years in different parts of the country. No public announcements have been made about any of them being put on trial, unlike in neighboring Iraq where thousands of IS members, many of them

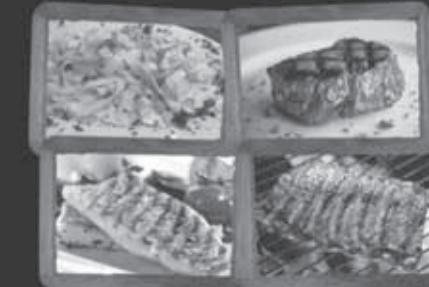
foreigners, have been sentenced to death. Some human rights groups have expressed concern about government troops taking over IS detention centers currently run by the U.S.-allied Kurds. Assad said: "Every terrorist in the areas controlled by the Syrian state will be subject to Syrian law and Syrian law is clear concerning terrorism. We have courts specialized in terrorism and they will be prosecuted." He did not elaborate. Most European countries are refusing to take back their citizens and a number of French IS prisoners received death sentences in trials in Iraq. □

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In this Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017 file photo, a man brandishing a "panga" machete challenges police near a burning barricade during election-related clashes between police and protesters in the Mathare slum of Nairobi, Kenya.

Associated Press

Kenyan rivals launch report to help end election violence

By TOM ODULA

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Kenya's president and top opposition leader on Wednesday launched a report that they call a road map for unifying the country and ending deadly violence around elections.

The country has seen post-election violence in 1992, 1997, 2007 and 2017, when the Supreme Court shocked the country by nullifying the presidential election over irregularities and ordered a fresh vote, which the opposition boycotted.

The long-awaited Building Bridges Initiative was launched by President Uhuru Kenyatta and rival Raila Odinga after they shook hands last year to end a months-long political standoff in which at least 92 people were killed. Among the report's recom-

mendations is creating a prime minister post, replacing the electoral commission and nearly doubling county governments' share of the national budget from 18% to 35%.

It also takes aim at widespread corruption, saying government officials should not engage in business while in office.

The report was criticized by some observers, including those who had hoped for bolder recommendations against corruption.

Anti-corruption expert John Githongo called it "muddled."

Economist David Ndii, who was Odinga's chief strategist during the election, called the report an "Uhuru-Raila self-preservation political project."

This isn't the first time Kenya has attempted to calm political violence. □

U.N.: South Sudan recruits new force, contrary to peace deal



In this Saturday, May 25, 2019 file photo, South Sudan's President Salva Kiir arrives for the swearing-in ceremony of Cyril Ramaphosa at Loftus Versfeld stadium in Pretoria, South Africa.

Associated Press

By CARA ANNA
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

A new report says South Sudan's National Security Service has recruited a force of 10,000 fighters in President Salva Kiir's ethnic stronghold, in apparent breach of the terms of the country's peace deal. The report by United Nations experts monitoring sanctions on South Sudan expresses concern over the slow implementation of the fragile deal signed in September 2018 to end five years of civil war that killed nearly 400,000 people.

The report says South Sudan's government has shown little interest in abiding by the spirit of the agreement on security and other arrangements, putting the deal in peril and posing an "immediate threat" to the country's fragile peace. A crucial deadline to form a coalition government was missed this month af-

ter opposition leader Riek Machar criticized slow progress in security arrangements. Machar and Kiir agreed to postpone that key step for 100 days until mid-February so security and governance issues can be resolved.

Frustrated by the delay, the United States this week announced it was recalling its ambassador to South Sudan back to Washington for consultations as the U.S. reevaluates its relationship with the country. That could mean further sanctions.

The new U.N. report says the signatories of the peace deal have made "no significant decisions" on implementing it in recent months, while the key step of creating a unified security force is "far behind schedule." Only 7,400 government troops have been registered, compared with some 32,000 opposition fighters, far from the overall

goal of 83,000. Meanwhile, children and others have been recruited, sometimes forcefully, to create a 10,000-strong force in recent months in Kiir's ethnic stronghold, the report says. The force is under the direct command of the National Security Service and was created after Kiir and one NSS official reportedly "convinced local Dinka elders in former Warrap state of the need to strengthen the capacity of forces loyal to them."

The new force is "contrary to the provisions of the peace agreement," the report says.

It also says one country that has tried to broker peace, neighboring Uganda, has violated the U.N. arms embargo on South Sudan by deploying troops last month to parts of Yei River state. It does not say how many.

The report also says both government and opposition forces "have continued to generate revenues through the illegal harvest, sale and taxation of teak and mahogany."

South Sudan's civil war began in late 2013, just two years after the country's independence from Sudan, when supporters of Kiir and Machar, then his deputy, clashed. A previous peace deal fell apart amid fresh fighting in 2016 and Machar fled the country on foot. Under the current agreement Machar would once again become Kiir's deputy. □

Myriad frustrations draw Colombians back onto streets

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombians unhappy with President Iván Duque's response to nearly a week of boisterous protests over everything from job losses to shark hunting took to the streets again Wednesday in a continuing tide of unrest. The daily protests jolting the South American country proclaim a wide array of complaints but echo one refrain: an opposition to a government that many believe only looks after the most privileged citizens.

"We feel defenseless to everything," Lucy Rosales, 60, a pensioner in Bogota. "We don't feel like we have a voice that represents us. It's many things that they allowed to accumulate."

Several thousand people blew whistles and waving their nation's flag as they marched through the streets of the capital around mid-afternoon, while indigenous activists blocked part of a major highway in southwest Colombia.

The new demonstration came a day after Duque's attempt to quell the discontent by holding talks with a protest steering group hit a snag: Members of the National Strike Committee refused to join broader talks



An anti-government demonstrator, her face painted with the colors of the Colombian national flag, takes part in a protest, in Bogota, Colombia, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

the president has called with all social sectors, fearing their demands would be diluted.

"The government has not been able to learn from the Chilean and Ecuadorian experiences," said Jorge Restrepo, an economics professor, referring to recent mass demonstrations in both of those countries. "It has made very many mistakes."

The steering committee presented a 13-point list of demands Tuesday that

asks Duque to withdraw or refrain from tax, labor and pension law changes that are either before the legislature or rumored to be in development. The labor and student leaders also want Duque to review free-trade agreements, eliminate a police unit accused in the death of an 18-year-old student protester and fully implement the nation's historic peace accord with leftist rebels.

Organizers dismissed Duque's calls to join his "Na-

tional Conversation" that would run through March — an initiative that appears to take a page from French President Emmanuel Macron, who opened a "Great National Debate" to involve citizens in drafting reforms after months of angry protests in that country. "It's a monologue between the government and its allies," said Diógenes Orjuela, president of the Central Workers Union, one of the main forces behind the National Strike Committee.

It remains unclear to what extent the Strike Committee represents protesters in what has become a largely citizen-driven outpouring of discontent. An invitation to gather in a park or bang pots and pans quickly goes viral on WhatsApp and soon hundreds fill neighborhoods with the angry sound of clanging metal and chants like "Get out Duque!"

"We're tired," Ana María Moya, a student, said. "We're saying, 'No more.'"

Though the National Strike Committee drew an estimated 250,000 people to the streets last Thursday, far fewer protesters were heeding their call for a new strike on Wednesday. Protesters filled the storied Plaza Bolívar but life continued as normal in much of the rest of the capital.

Various leaders have tried to capitalize on the momentum, but none yet has emerged as the unequivocal voice of the protesters.

"There is a contest over the ownership of the protesters," Restrepo said. "I see students get out in the streets because they need more social mobility, higher levels of income, more opportunities at least in employment. □



In this handout photo provided by Peru's Palace of Justice Press Office, former Prime Minister Cesar Villanueva is escorted by police to a courtroom, at the Palace of Justice in Lima, Peru, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Former Peruvian Prime Minister César Villanueva was arrested preventatively while being investigated for alleged influence peddling in a bribery case linked to Brazilian construction giant

Odebrecht, the Public Ministry said Wednesday. Authorities also detained businessman José María Santisteban Zurita, North Lima prosecutor Alberto Orlando Rossel Alvarado and provincial deputy

Ex-Peruvian prime minister detained in Odebrecht case

prosecutor Ronald Nicolás Chaflaque Chávez.

"All of them are being investigated for the crime of influence peddling and illegal sponsorship," prosecutor Jesús Fernández said in a tweet.

Villanueva was head of the Council of Ministers, or prime minister, in the government of President Martín Vizcarra from April 2018 to March 2019, when he resigned as Vizcarra shuffled his Cabinet amid heavy criticism for a trip he took to Portugal and Spain, where he attended an art fair dedicated to Peru, while heavy rains caused

avalanches that destroyed houses in dozens of villages in Peru.

Peru is in the midst of a reckoning over entrenched, widespread corruption that has decimated public confidence in elected officials. Nearly every former living president is under investigation in connection with the Odebrecht probe — with the exception of former President Alberto Fujimori, who is serving a 25-year prison sentence for human rights abuses, corruption and the sanctioning of death squads.

Former President Alan García died in April after shoot-

ing himself in the head as officers came to detain him in relation to the Odebrecht probe. Ex-President Alejandro Toledo is being held in the United States while his extradition is sought by Peru. Former President Ollanta Humala, who was imprisoned for nine months, was released in April 2018, although he is still under investigation. And former President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski is under house arrest, accused of lying about his ties to Odebrecht.

In 2016 Odebrecht acknowledged it paid bribes to obtain juicy contracts across Latin America. □

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Terrific Thanksgiving at Double Down Sports Bar & Grill: New executive chef invites you to a trip of taste and tradition



EAGLE BEACH — Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino is flying you to the next level with a new executive chef who has already earned his stripes in gastronomy. Michael van Dorst excels in the startup of kitchens as he did for Screaming Eagle restaurant, Windows on Aruba and Chicken & Lobster among others. With over twelve years of experience he invites you all to Double Down Sports Bar & Grill at Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino to taste what all-American tradition is about. This is the place to be on Thurs-

day November 28th to indulge in feasting and football at the same time.

Van Dorst is happy to be at Double Down. "This is a full concept with a down-to-earth menu offering a cozy ambiance with all sports to be watched on the many HD screens and a casino on hand to play a round. I am open to run all kinds of kitchens but I do want to be the best in my game." This Thanksgiving he invites you to taste what a traditional buffet in its es-

sence means. "I am not going to change the traditional menu but I do spice it up a bit with surprising details. Most important characteristic of my way of cooking is to keep it pure and natural. I conquer with honesty." The executive chef together with his team will take you to a rich buffet that can be combined with local dark beers from our island: Hopi Stout and B62. "With this Thanksgiving buffet I combine two worlds, the United States and Aruba."

Expect plenty of US-style partying going down, with American whisky cocktails, American anthems, Beer Bucket Specials, Giveaways (must be present to win) and of course turkey specials, the Double Down Sports bar way. NFL fans will be buzzing to hear that along with this you can watch all the American Football games LIVE on huge HD screens and 4 Giant 9-foot Screens, so you don't have to miss a thing.

Future Fun

With Van Dorst steering the main kitchen at Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino Double Down will have a lot of future fun for you in the pocket. "This bar is very accessible and cozy and we like to keep the food in line with that while focusing on the flavors. Burgers are homemade and available in a variety from Wagyu beef to Triple Pounders. We work together with local suppliers making fresh ingredients a fact." Herbs, mushrooms, lettuce are all coming straight from Aruban soil which makes you as a customer supporting local businesses while eating here. "We are also going to work together with the lion fish organization to contribute to the reef care." Besides that Van Dorst has Aruban students in his kitchen who he teaches the skills. "I had the opportunity to work with the best chefs in The Netherlands and I see it as my duty to transfer that knowledge to young Arubans." Make your way to Double Down Sports Bar & Grill and decide for yourself whether Van Dorst and his crew will make you feel thankful for coming. We already know they do! □

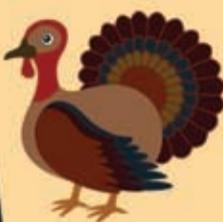
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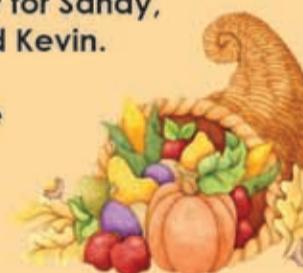
"Give thanks for a little and you will find a lot."

David Campanile
Surfside Beach, SC



I'm truly "thankful" today for Sandy, Amanda, Pedro and Kevin.

Dick McIntire



Paul I'm grateful for all your support during my cancer treatment. Xoxo Karyn

KARYN Migut



ORANJESTAD – Thanksgiving Day is an annual national holiday in the United States and Canada celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. Americans generally believe that their Thanksgiving is modeled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag people.

The American holiday is particularly rich in legend and symbolism, and the traditional fare of the Thanksgiving meal typically includes turkey, bread stuffing, potatoes, cranberries, and pumpkin pie. With respect to vehicular travel, the holiday is often the busiest of the year, as family members gather with one another.

Aruba Today invited their appreciated readers to send their thankful messages to be published in our newspaper. We thank you for your contribution and to all readers we would like to say Thank You for your support to keep our free newspaper running. Happy Thanksgiving! □



God bless your welcoming people & beautiful island. Alex & Judi

Judith Trzcinski



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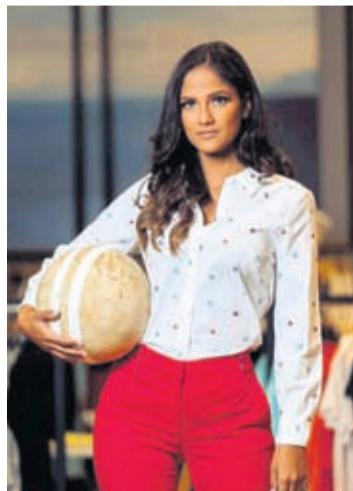
ORANJESTAD — Aruba is hot in every sense of the word, but not just in temperature. This Friday, November 29th in particular you will be blown away by the super deals at Renaissance Mall. Be there to shop till you drop at more than 60 stores in this one-stop shopping Valhalla. Renaissance Mall has it all. Get the best bang for your buck this Black Friday.

The Renaissance Mall has extended opening hours at

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Join the fun at Michael Kors, Tous, Kate Spade, Nautica, Aruba Aloe, Adidas, Jolie Jewelry Boutique, Agua Bendita, Colombian Emeralds, Crocs and Ralph Lauren. A DJ will get you into the right mood while you have all the opportunity to stack up on the holiday gifts.

Renaissance Mall is cov-



ered, cool, offers clean public restrooms, is housed in an elegant building with a classy interior and invites guest to play a round at the casino upstairs. Besides that, you're in midtown, the heart of Oranjestad. Of course, we need to fuel our inner body too and Renaissance has that ready for you. There is Starbucks, or a super lunch at Aquarius Restaurant and finish it all off with dinner at L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House. □



Definitely Divi

Jonathan Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba and Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The symbolic Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Stephen & Ruthe Fleischman** from USA.

Jonathan Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 years or more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **David & Paula Decker**, together with **Cheryl & Kyle Adams**.

These wonderful people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-



The honorees were **Shirley Ribeiro Vieira** as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba, together with couple **Raymond & Evelyn**.



This lovely couple stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches



These lovely people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people who became like family to them. Boekhoudt together with the representatives of The Divi All-Inclusive Resort presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home.□

and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its cleanliness, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom became like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Aruba Phoenix presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home.□

round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety and Aruba's warm and friendly people who became like family to them.

Boekhoudt together with the representatives of the Tamarin Aruba all-Inclusive Resort presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home.□

Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor one of Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as a Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honoree was **Arlette Johnson** from USA.

Arlette stated that Aruba is and will always be her second home.

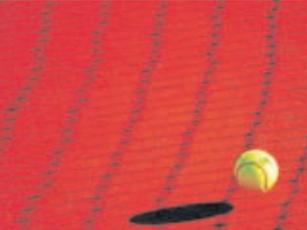


She fell in love the first time she came to the island back in 1981. She also expressed that Aruba is very nice, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its rich culture, and Aruba's warm

and friendly people. Arlette is 4 years away from receiving the Emerald Ambassador certificate. The Emerald Ambassador is the highest certificate that we present, and is given to visitors who have been visiting Aruba 35 years or more consecutively.

Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honoree, handed over some presents and also thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination and as her home-away-from-home.□

SPORTS



Brind'Amour says Peters kicked, punched players in Carolina

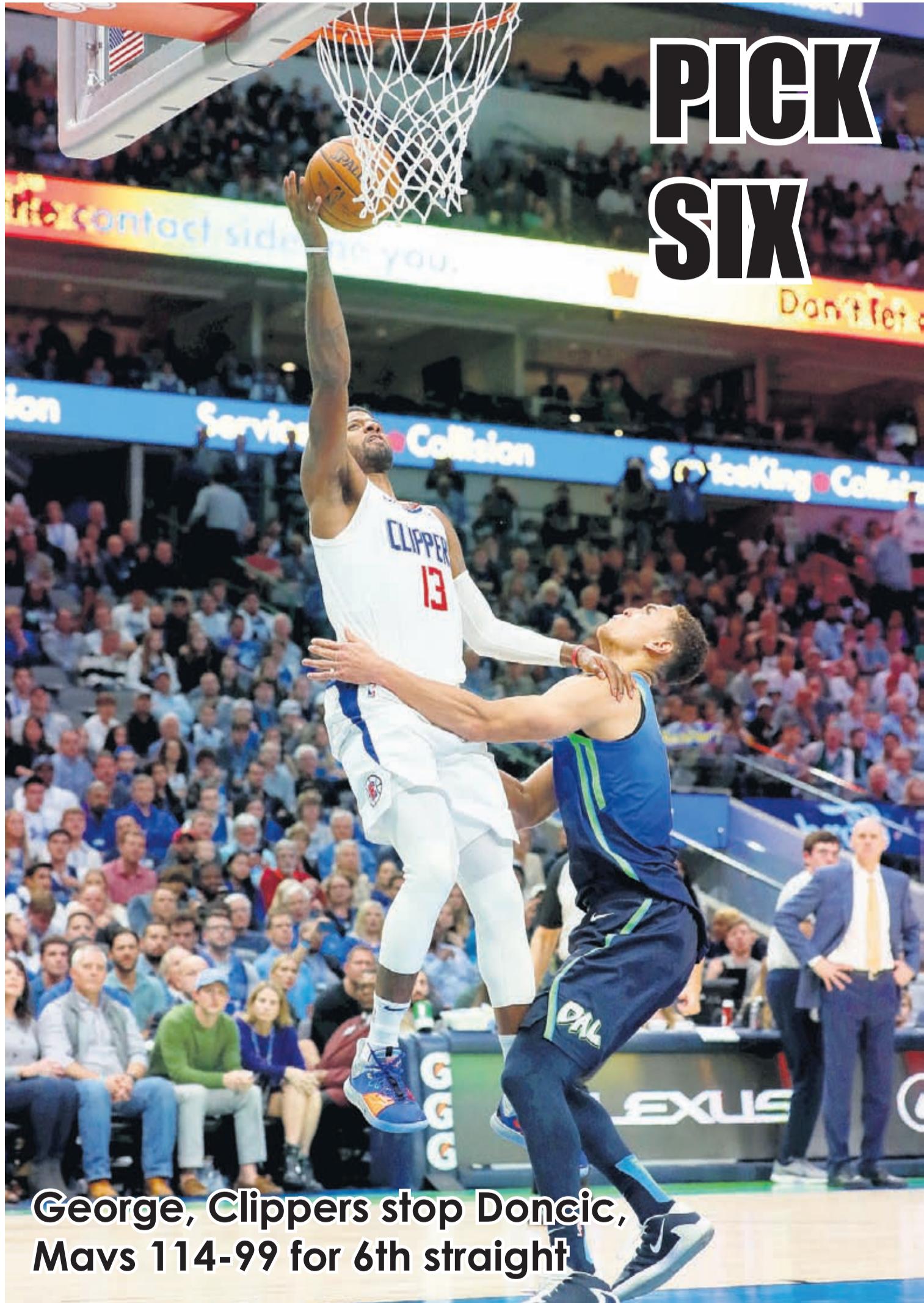
By JOHN WAWROW AP
BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Calgary Flames coach Bill Peters is now being accused of punching and kicking players while he was in Carolina, adding to an allegation that he directed racist slurs at a Nigerian-born player in the minors 10 years ago.

Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour on Wednesday said "for sure that happened" in backing a former player's complaints of Peters physically going after his own players behind the bench during his four seasons in Carolina.

Brind'Amour's comments increase the scrutiny on Peters, whose future in Calgary remains in question. Peters has not commented or been with his team over the past two days while the NHL and the team investigate allegations made by Akim Aliu, who said Peters "dropped the N bomb several times" because he didn't like the player's choice of music. The alleged confrontation happened during the 2009-10 season while the two were with the Chicago Blackhawks minor league affiliate in Rockford, Illinois.

Peters traveled with the team to Buffalo on Tuesday, a day after Aliu posted his allegations on Twitter. But Peters' whereabouts were unknown with the Flames only saying he won't be behind the bench for Calgary's game at Buffalo on Wednesday night. Associate coach Geoff Ward will serve as coach.

Continued on Page 23



**PICK
SIX**

George, Clippers stop Doncic, Mavs 114-99 for 6th straight

Los Angeles Clippers forward Paul George (13) is fouled going up for a basket by Dallas Mavericks forward Dwight Powell in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019.

Associated Press
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For Shiffrin, grandma part of warm memories at Killington

By PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

Mikaela Shiffrin doesn't lose often. Rarer still, she doesn't lose to the same person over and over.

Growing up, the two-time Olympic gold medalist just couldn't beat a certain someone in Scrabble, Boggle or the card game UNO. Grandma always won. She even playfully kept the scorecards around as proof.

It's a warm memory Shiffrin has of the person she affectionately called "Nana," who died Oct. 22 at 98.

Along with this one: Her grandmother watching her race a World Cup event in person for the first time at Killington, Vermont, three years ago. Shiffrin won that day and tears filled her eyes when she hugged Nana.

Her grandmother will be in Shiffrin's thoughts during this weekend's races at Killington. She's always close to Shiffrin's heart.

"I have a million memories," Shiffrin said of her grandmother, Pauline Mary Condron, who played tennis, was an avid bowler and of course always a big fan of skiing. "They are all incredible."

Like her breakfasts ("best breakfast in the world," Shiffrin boasted).

Or the time Nana tipped over in a kayak years ago and lost her glasses. Shiffrin's mom/coach, Eileen, frequently recounts that story ("I was so young but it's so cute when my mom tells the story!").



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin competes during an alpine ski, women's slalom in Levi, Finland, Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019.

Or how Nana ALWAYS won at board games.

"She loved to keep track of the score and save them with the games," Shiffrin said. "If we left the game out on the table when we weren't playing she would randomly open it up and look over the scores — and remind everyone how often she won."

These days, Shiffrin wins about that often on the slopes.

Last weekend in Levi, Finland, she set the World Cup record for most slalom wins by any ski racer. The 24-year-old from Colorado earned her 41st career slalom victory to top Swedish great Ingemar Stenmark, who won 40 slaloms between 1974 and 1987. Shiffrin amassed her total in just

seven years.

With her victory in Levi came another prize — a reindeer to add to her growing herd. She named the previous ones Rudolph (2013), Sven (2016) and Mr. Gru (2018).

The name of the newest member? Ingemar, naturally — a tribute to Stenmark.

All these records she's breaking still catch her a little off guard. More could possibly be attained at Killington. With 61 career World Cup wins, she's one away from tying Austrian great Annemarie Moser-Proell for second on the all-time women's list. The women's record of 82 is held by the retired Lindsey Vonn. The overall mark of 86 belongs to Stenmark.

"I still find it a little insane that I'm at the point in my career to be surpassing any of these records," Shiffrin said. "More than anything it just makes me smile to know I'm living my dream as a little girl of being one of the best in the world."

Shiffrin can't help but marvel at being one of the "veterans" on the circuit these days. It's hard for her to compute.

"I'm not old, but I am still considered a veteran even though sometimes I still feel like a rookie," said Shiffrin, who's aiming for her fourth straight World Cup overall title this season. "Every time I see a new young athlete have a breakthrough performance I think, 'Hmmm, what am I going to do to have another 'break-

through' performance?'"

Know this about Shiffrin: She doesn't reflect on past accomplishments. She's looking forward to stay a step ahead of the competition.

"I still haven't been able to 'process' my first podium, or my first win, or my first world champs or Olympic gold," said Shiffrin, who's slated to compete in Saturday's giant slalom and Sunday's slalom. "These milestones seem to just melt together into more things that I can't seem to process so I've sort of stopped trying."

"But I'm also OK with that because I'd rather enjoy the moments that I'm living now or look to the future instead of dwell on the past."

Being back at Killington rekindles so many powerful emotions. It's a place where she's won slalom races in 2016, '17 and '18. It's hard to top that first time Nana was able to attend. Her grandmother had a warm seat to watch her win.

After the race, Nana was taken outside to congratulate her granddaughter. Nana's smile. Their embrace. It's a moment Shiffrin will always cherish.

"It was so fun. Such a nice celebration to have all the people that I love the most right there," Shiffrin recounted. "Seeing my Nana's face right after my race, getting to hug her, hearing her voice, it just put everything in perspective and that made the whole day so, so much sweeter. It was so incredible to have her there." □

Injury ends season of Olympic downhill runner-up Mowinckel



Norwegian alpine skier Ragnhild Mowinckel attends a press conference in Oslo, Tuesday Nov. 26, 2019.

Associated Press

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Olympic downhill silver medalist Ragnhild Mowinckel says her ski racing season is over due to another serious knee injury.

Mowinckel says on her social media accounts she tore a knee ligament again last week while training in Norway.

The 27-year-old Norwegian was coming back from a serious right knee injury in March when she crashed in downhill training at the

World Cup finals in Andorra. Mowinckel writes "I'm devastated, but dealing with the fact that this setback will once again just be exactly that... a setback."

The first injury came one month after she won a first career world championships medal, a bronze in Alpine combined at Are, Sweden. At the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics, Mowinckel took silvers in downhill, ahead of third-placed Lindsey Vonn, and giant slalom. □



Clippers ease past Mavs 114-99 in matchup of 5-win streaks

By SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Paul

George and Kawhi Leonard gave the young European duo from the Dallas Mavericks the best look yet at life among the elite in the Western Conference.

George scored 17 of his 26 points in the first quarter, Leonard finished with 28 and the Los Angeles Clippers took control early in a meeting of teams with matching five-game winning streaks, beating the Mavericks 114-99 on Tuesday night.

The Clippers used several defenders to end Luka Doncic's franchise-record streak of four games with at least 30 points and 10 assists, knocking the 20-year-old phenom to the floor early on a 4-of-14 shooting night. Doncic had 22 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

Kristaps Porzingis was 4 of 13, the 7-foot-3 Latvian combining with the Rookie of the Year from Slovenia to go 8 of 27 compared to 19 of 42 for the LA stars.

George added a career-high six steals to help hold

the Mavericks under 100 points for the first time this season.

"They're looking to win a championship; they played like it was a playoff game," said Porzingis, who hit a 28-footer 22 seconds into the game and another 3-pointer from the logo at center court just before halftime but finished 3 of 8 from long range. He had 15 points and 10 rebounds. "They played aggressively and they showed us that we have to learn how to play these games. We have to bring that same intensity."

Patrick Beverley got in foul trouble as one of the defenders assigned to Doncic, who had to settle for doing most of his damage on free throws, making 14 of 16.

Beverley getting his fourth foul early in the second half just brought back Lou Williams sooner. The high-scoring reserve finished with 21 points, going 4 of 7 on 3s while Doncic missed all seven of his deep tries against the LA defense.

"That's who we are as a team," said George, who

had all four of his 3-pointers in the first quarter. "We pride ourselves on defense. Offensively, we've got guys that can score the ball, but we want to make it tough on a nightly basis on whoever we're playing."

The Mavericks had taken the Southwest Division lead with a win at Houston for their fifth straight victory, and weren't too far removed from a loss to LeBron James and the Lakers that required a buzzer-beating 3 to force overtime in Dallas.

But the other expected title contenders from LA offered a dose of reality for a team looking to end a three-season run without reaching the playoffs.

Dallas was trailing by three when Doncic joined the rest of the starters on the bench in the final minute of the first quarter. By the time those five came back together in the second, the Los Angeles lead was 48-32. The LA bench scored 16 of the 20 points during the run, with Leonard getting the other four. The NBA's highest-scoring bench finished with 44 points. Dallas,



Dallas Mavericks guard Jalen Brunson (13) and Seth Curry (30) defend against a shot by Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard (2) in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019.

fourth on that list, scored 37 bench points, most with the outcome no longer in doubt.

"They're big, they're strong, they're highly skilled," Mav-

ericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "They pick you up full court and they hound you. This is a game we've got to learn from and do better next time." □

76ers' Brett Brown to coach Australia at Tokyo Olympics

MELBOURNE, Australia

(AP) — Philadelphia 76ers coach Brett Brown will guide the Australian men's team at next year's Tokyo Olympics.

Basketball Australia said Wednesday he will succeed Andrej Lemanis, who coached the Boomers to the semifinals at the 2016 Olympics — the team's best Olympic result — and this year's World Cup. The governing body did not say how long Brown will coach Australia.

Australia is one of seven men's teams to have already qualified for Tokyo. Its roster could include Philadelphia star Ben Simmons. Australia also has several other NBA players, including Utah's Joe Ingles and Dante Exum, Cleveland's Matthew Dellavedova and



Philadelphia 76ers head coach Brett Brown yells to his team during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Miami Heat, Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

San Antonio's Patty Mills. Brown coached the Australian team from 2009 to 2012 and was an assistant from 1995 to 2003, including the 1996 and 2000 Olympics.

"We're going to the 2020 Olympics to win a gold medal," Brown said in a Basketball Australia statement.

"This is our mission and my message to our team."

He said when the opportunity arose to again coach the Boomers, "I was reminded of my deep history with Australia and Australian basketball."

"I felt a duty to try and help in any way that I could," he added. "The spirit of the country and the athletes of the country exemplify on a day-to-day basis the passion that is Australian sport ... I'm very excited to be a part of that again." □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: Hook and Cook your Own Fish!



Oranjestad— Renaissance Marina Downtown is home to the Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood. Herby senior and Herby junior both share a passion and love for fishing. They know what the local waters have to offer and what fresh fish really means. Over 30 years ago, the idea for the fishing charter was born.

Captain Herby would catch the fish to be served at the restaurant the same day. That concept still lives, what is 'hooked' during the day is cooked in the evening at the restaurant.

Herby shares his experience with his crew, who take out guests daily on their tournament rigged 35ft twin engine

Bertram "Driftwood" or on their more spacious 37ft twin engine Bertram called "Living Easy". Both yachts are available for charters from 8am to 12 noon, or from 1 to 5pm (6-hour trips also available). To book a fishing charter visit www.driftwoodfishingcharters.com or call Herbert direct at (297)-5924040.



Have an authentic seafood dining experience at Driftwood Restaurant, situated in the characteristic downtown Oranjestad. This comfortable downtown restaurant has a long tradition (30 years) of serving the freshest fish, the biggest shrimp, and the most succulent Caribbean Lobster.

Opening Hours: 5:00pm to 10.30pm (closed on Sundays)

For reservations visit www.driftwoodaruba.com or call (297)-5832515

Address: Klipstraat 12. Oranjestad, Aruba

Pastrnak earns 2nd hat trick, Bruins beat Canadiens 8-1

By The Associated Press

MONTREAL (AP) — David Pastrnak recorded his second hat trick of the season and the Eastern Conference-leading Boston Bruins routed the Montreal Canadiens 8-1 Tuesday night. Jake DeBrusk, Brad Marchand, Anders Bjork, Charlie Coyle and Danon Heinen also scored for the Bruins (16-3-5), who have won four straight.

Marchand, Coyle, David Krejci and Torey Krug had two assists apiece, while Sean Kuraly had three.

Captain Shea Weber scored the only goal for the Canadiens (11-8-5), who have lost five straight.

Bruins backup Jaroslav Halak made 36 saves and improved to 6-0-0 against Carey Price, his former teammate in Montreal.

Price gave up five goals on 11 shots before being pulled in the second period. Keith Kinkaid stopped 10 of 13 shots in relief.



Boston Bruins right wing David Pastrnak (88) scores his third goal of the game past Montreal Canadiens goaltender Keith Kinkaid (37) during second period NHL hockey action Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019 in Montreal.

Associated Press

Boston extended its points streak to eight games (5-0-3) and moved ahead of Washington atop the conference standings.

Price gave up six goals on 34 shots to the Rang-

ers and struggled even more against the Bruins, who were without Patrice Bergeron (lower-body injury).

WILD 3, DEVILS 2

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Kaa-

po Kahkonen made 32 saves in his NHL debut, defenseman Ryan Suter scored the winner early in the third period and suddenly hot Minnesota beat New Jersey in a game the NHL said the Devils got credit for a goal that should not have counted.

Zach Parise and Jordan Greenway also scored as the Wild extended their point-scoring streak to seven games (4-0-3).

Jesper Boqvist scored the disputed goal and Kyle Palmieri tallied on a power play as the Devils continued to alternate good games and bad games. Louis Domingue, making his second straight start, had 26 saves.

On the game-winner, Ryan Hartman won a faceoff and Ryan Donato found Suter in the left circle for a rocket over Domingue 3:00 into the period.

While the Wild were protecting the lead, the NHL

issued a statement saying Boqvist's earlier goal should not have counted because the referees failed to uphold a challenge by Wild coach Bruce Boudreau against Wayne Simmonds playing the puck with a high stick before the goal.

BLACKHAWKS 3, STARS 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Corey Crawford made 32 saves for Chicago's first shutout this season and the Blackhawks ended Dallas' seven-game winning streak.

Brandon Saad, Patrick Kane and Connor Murphy scored for Chicago, which snapped a three-game slide. The 34-year-old Crawford was sharp in stopping several prime Dallas chances in his 26th career shutout.

The Blackhawks dealt the surging Stars their first regulation loss since Oct. 26, and ended Dallas' 12-game point streak (11-0-1.) Anton Khudobin blocked 35 shots. □

Bills' Beasley not dwelling on past ahead of Dallas return

By MARK LUDWICZAK

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)

— Ahead of his long-awaited return to Dallas, Cole Beasley is having too much fun with his new team to dwell on the past.

Beasley's Buffalo Bills (8-3) will head to Dallas to take on the Cowboys (6-5) on Thanksgiving. It will be Beasley's first game against his former team after spending the first seven years of his career in Dallas.

"I haven't really thought about it," Beasley said. "I've been happy here so I'm kind of focused more on what we've been doing here. There's no ill will or anything. I still think I made the right decision, it was the best move for me and I don't regret it one bit."

That's a different tone than the one Beasley struck earlier this offseason. The 30-year-old slot receiver was eager to move on from Dallas after speaking out about his lack of opportunities in the Cowboys offense. Beasley signed a four-year, \$29 million deal with Buffalo in free agency and has been a featured performer for the upstart Bills with 49 receptions for 525 yards and four touchdowns through 11 games. Beasley is on pace to have one of the best seasons of his career.

"It's all gone, I'm on a dif-



Buffalo Bills wide receiver Cole Beasley (10) crosses the goal line to score a touchdown ahead of Denver Broncos cornerback Davontae Harris during the third quarter of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019, in Orchard Park, N.Y.

Associated Press

ferent team," Beasley said. "The role is different now. I'm in a role that I wanted to be in anywhere at that point in time when I was trying to decide where to go. It's been awesome. I'm getting to do exactly what I want to do here."

Beasley has quickly become a go-to guy for Buffalo both in the locker room and on the field. The 5-foot-8, 174-pound wideout has repeatedly impressed with his consistency and tough-

ness, in addition to his leadership skills.

"The thing about Cole that I don't think really people give him credit for is his football IQ is extremely high," Bills quarterback Josh Allen said. "The things that he sees on the field, he's kind of like a quarterback out there. He sees things open before they are."

"Concepts that he likes that he's given to Coach Daboll we've incorporated into our offense and they're

key, core plays for us. We appreciate him here and we appreciate how hard he works each day."

Beasley admits that a win over his former team would be special, but he's more concerned about what it could mean for Buffalo's postseason hopes. The Bills are coming off their two most complete performances of the season — wins over Miami and Denver — but are still looking for a signature win.

A victory over Dallas on Thanksgiving would do just that while pushing the Bills closer in the wild-card race in the AFC.

"There's a part of you that wants to win it a little more, maybe, I guess, but I want to win them all," Beasley said. "So it's really not that much different. It will be fun to go against a lot of guys that I've gone and practiced against over the last few years, so it will be cool to do that. I won't be talking any, like, serious (stuff) to 'em but it will be some joking around, trash talking."

While Beasley prefers not to reflect on the past, it's clear that he's been rejuvenated by his role in Buffalo. And it's a role that he could see lasting for a long, long time.

"I feel like maybe at that point in time in Dallas I would've thought, maybe, I don't know how many years I've got left, maybe I've got like one or two," Beasley said. "But now I'm here and I'm happy and I'm having a great time. Really, I'll play here 'til the wheels fall off. I love the guys, I love the coaches. (Brian) Daboll's one of the coolest coordinators I've ever had. So it's been awesome."

That feeling is mutual.

"I'm glad he's on our team," Bills coach Sean McDermott said. □

Eagles star guard Brandon Brooks talks openly about anxiety

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Two-time Pro Bowl right guard Brandon Brooks said pressure of trying to live up to a new contract led to an anxiety attack that forced him out of the Philadelphia Eagles' game last Sunday. Brooks has dealt with anxiety for several years but has started 50 straight games, including the playoffs. He recently signed a four-year, \$54.2 million contract and it weighed on his mind.

"When I got the new contract, I tried to talk myself down about it," Brooks said Tuesday. "Hey look, you're playing great, keep doing what you're doing,

no issues.' I talked to my therapist about it, it started setting in my head, 'Hey, you've got to show everybody you're worth the money,' instead of, 'Just go out there and play. No need to change what you've been doing or anything like that.' That's what kind of brought it on. That's just the person I am. That's my double-edged sword. It's something that's always driven me, to try and be the greatest at whatever I do."

Brooks played only 12 snaps in a 17-9 loss to Seattle and had to leave. He was vomiting all morning and between series dur-



In this Oct. 12, 2017, file photo, Philadelphia Eagles' Brandon Brooks (79) sits on the bench during the second half of an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers in Charlotte, N.C.

ing the game before he exited.

"We're people. We're human beings. We go

through," Brooks said. "We're no different and when we have issues, the only difference is that it's front-page news. There are a lot of people who go through the same issues that we all go through. I just encourage athletes who do go through things, whether it's something like a mental illness or really anything, to speak about it. You never know who you might help. You might be helping yourself."

Brooks said he's thankful for support from coaches, teammates and fans. He plans to practice Wednesday and play Sunday at Miami. □



In this May 24, 2016, file photo, lab technicians work at Russia's national drug-testing laboratory in Moscow, Russia.

Associated Press

Doping report obtained by AP shows depths of Russia cover-up

By EDDIE PELLS
AP National Writer

The Russians were running out of time. Experts from the World Anti-Doping Agency were heading to Moscow to finally receive the trove of data they'd been seeking for two years. Instead of getting ready to hand it over, Russian authorities stayed busy in a round-the-clock endeavor to keep changing, deleting and manipulating the data. Granular details of the plot are sprinkled throughout WADA's previously confidential 89-page report, obtained by The Associated Press.

Among the most brazen projects, the report says, was the rewriting of memos to make it look as though the man who exposed the plot was leveraging the Russian doping scheme to line his own pockets. The rewrites were also designed to eliminate any record that one of Russia's own key defense witnesses in the case had done anything wrong.

"Treat all the files the same, and you can take your Bonus home," said one of the doctored messages, purported to have been written by whistleblower Grigory Rodchenkov to another worker, Timofey So-

bolevsky, at the now-infamous Moscow antidoping lab.

In fact, the original messages were to Sobolevsky from a key Russian witness and purveyor of the plot, Evgeny Kudryavtsev. Those simply said "OK," and "Tim, we will soon be giving it." Kudryavtsev has called Rodchenkov, who lives in hiding in the United States, a liar. Rodchenkov was not part of the original exchange. The doctored message was one of thousands of manipulations that were concocted long after Russia had agreed to hand over the data in its original form. In fact, Russia was doctoring files as late as Jan. 16, 2019, while WADA's team was already in the building, one day away from leaving Moscow with the now-sullied data in tow. The details of the deception, portrayed by WADA investigators as the "smoking gun" in the Russian manipulation case, are included in the report, which spells out the ways Russia reworked data that was supposed to be used to prosecute doping cases stemming from its state-run system to win Olympic medals.

Sprinkled throughout the 89 pages are a number of explanations the Russians

gave for the discrepancies — among them, system malfunctions and routine space-clearing operations that occurred at the beginning of every year — each of which is incisively batted down by the WADA team of investigators, who went to painstaking lengths to conduct forensic research on 23 million megabytes of data. Regarding the forged messages, the investigators drew a forceful conclusion: The Russians were so focused on altering the messages that made them look the worst that they scoured through 11,227 of the exchanges to "identify and delete 25 highly inculpatory messages."

"They therefore planted fabricated evidence into the 2019 ... database that would allow them to blame those discrepancies on Dr Rodchenkov, Dr Sobolevsky" and another worker, the report said. "Such bad faith is indeed stunning, and ... it provides a lens through which the explanations offered by the Russian authorities for the following subsequent events should be observed." But Yuri Ganus, the head of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency, said the sanctions "were to be expected, and they're justified." □



In this May 6, 2015, file photo, LPGA commissioner Mike Whan speaks during a press conference at The Players Championship golf tournament in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

Ladies European Tour approves joint venture with LPGA

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

The Ladies European Tour approved a plan to partner with the LPGA Tour with hopes of expanding the women's game in Europe and beyond.

The tours keep their identities in the 50-50 joint venture.

Players from the LET will not have immediate access to the LPGA Tour, although LPGA Tour Commissioner Mike Whan said last week that it could lead to that. For now, he says top LET players would have access to the LPGA's "Q-Series" of two tournaments in consecutive weeks with cumulative scoring that awards LPGA cards.

LET members voted to approve the partnership Tuesday night at a meeting in Spain.

"Two teams, joining for one common purpose, will create opportunities we simply could not have pursued on our own," said Marta Figueras-Dotti, chair of the LET. "At its foundation, this joint venture is about creating opportunities for our members to pursue their passion, and their careers as professional athletes."

The LET has been struggling recently and this year had 20 official events, including two majors — the Women's British Open and Evian Championship. The Ladies Scottish Open also was co-

sanctioned by the LPGA Tour.

Whan said last week before leaving for Spain the merger is not a takeover. The LPGA and LET each would have six members on the board.

"And all proceeds stay in Europe — can't take any dollars out," Whan said. "We can put money into the LET, but we can't take money back out, which I asked my board to support. I want to make sure the European Tour players know that this is not some American growth strategy." Whan said a strong tour in Europe is good for the LPGA and golf around the world. He referred to the LPGA's own mission statement that he said was "to provide women the opportunity to pursue their dreams in the game of golf."

"As I said to our board, I don't see a boundary or a fence around that statement," Whan said. "Our founders would have done it if they would have had this ability, so why shouldn't we?"

Key to the venture is providing a path to the LPGA Tour, which attracts the best from all corners of the globe. Whan says there could come a time when top LET players go straight to the LPGA Tour, similar to the Symetra Tour, but only if the LET reaches a level where it makes sense. □

Help not available: NHL staffs brimming with ex-head coaches

By STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Hockey Writer

When Kevin Hayes got off to a slow start with the Philadelphia Flyers, coach Alain Vigneault didn't need to talk to him.

Assistants Mike Yeo and Michel Therrien took care of that. Because each had been an NHL head coach before, Vigneault encourages that direct communication.

"There's a confidence factor with AV knowing that if we're going to talk to a player, what we're saying would be the same message that he would be delivering to that player," Yeo said. "He wanted people that were comfortable and confident to go up to players, whether it's correcting, whether it's reinforcing, whether it's patting somebody on the back. He wants us to be proactive about that."

It's not just Yeo and Therrien. Anyone interested in firing a coach this season is in trouble without a successor lined up because almost every potential candidate already has a job.

Of 31 teams, 20 have a former NHL head coach as an assistant and six have more than one. Concerns about having too many cooks in the kitchen are no match for the benefit of having experience dealing with players, handling game situations and scouting op-

ponents.

"There's nothing but positives," Vigneault said. "I've got guys that understand exactly what I'm going through and understand exactly what I mean as far as feedback. Nobody understands a head coach better than a former head coach."

Philadelphia's three-headed monster is bested only by the Dallas Stars having ex-head coaches John Stevens, Rick Bowness and Todd Nelson on Jim Montgomery's staff. Unlike Vigneault, who carries with him the gravitas of taking two different teams to the Stanley Cup Final, Montgomery is a first-time head coach and isn't at all bothered by having guys directly reporting to him who have done his job before.

"I'm a guy that wants information from other people," said Montgomery, who's in his second season as Stars coach. "As much information they can give me before I talk to the team, the better knowledge I'm imparting to the team so that we can have quicker points and get right to what we think's going to help us win hockey games."

Four of the NHL-tested assistants — Detroit's Dan Bylsma, Chicago's Marc Crawford, Anaheim adviser Darryl Sutter and St. Louis part-timer Larry Robinson — have won the Stanley



In this Oct. 29, 2019, file photo, Philadelphia Flyers assistant Michel Therrien, left, and head coach Alain Vigneault stand behind their bench during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Associated Press

Cup as a head coach, and Sutter did it twice. Many more have connections to championship teams or won in the minors.

"There's a lot of little fires that coaches have to go through — head coaches — and I think when you have a staff with experience, they can put those fires out before they get to you," said Arizona Coyotes coach Rick Tocchet, who has Phil Housley and John MacLean on his staff.

Often, a personal connection is enough to create instant chemistry on a staff. Montgomery and Stevens

played together in the American Hockey League and won the Calder Cup in 1998, while Vigneault and Therrien have known each other for two decades.

Washington's Todd Reirden in his first head NHL job wanted an assistant with similar experience and hired Scott Arniel without knowing him. After being on a Pittsburgh Penguins staff under Blysma with former head coaches Tony Granato and Jacques Martin as fellow assistants, Reirden understands the importance of leaning on someone who's been there

before.

"I think I had had 10 or 11 years of assistant or associate coach (experience)," said Reirden, who was Barry Trotz's top assistant when the Capitals won the Cup in 2018. "But not being a full-time head coach in this league, and I thought it was important to have someone like Scott that had gone through the same type of thing: Good things that worked for him, in the same breath things that he wished he could do over and positives and negatives we could work on together." □

Continued from Page 17

Brind'Amour, who was an assistant on Peters' staff, said he was proud of the way players and support staff handled what happened by immediately bringing their concerns to team officials.

"Management handled it directly and never heard of it again and never saw anything else after that," said Brind'Amour, who spoke to reporters in New York before the Hurricanes game against the Rangers. "So it was definitely dealt with, in my opinion, correctly. ... We've definitely moved past that."

Brind'Amour took over as coach after Peters opted out of his contract follow-

ing the 2017-18 season. Peters was then immediately hired by the Flames, where he led the team to a 50-win season and a Pacific Division title in his first year. Flames general manager Brad Treliving is overseeing the investigation into Peters, and on Tuesday said he's spoken to the coach and Aliu plus many others. Treliving was not made available for comment Wednesday.

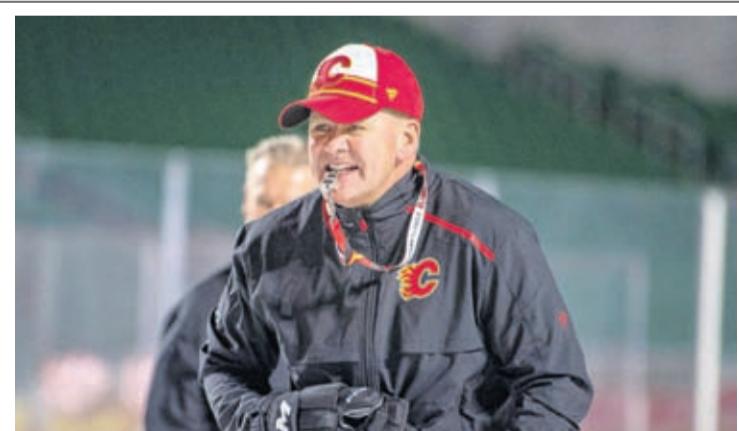
Ward and Flames players attempted to place the focus on the game, not Peters. "I don't have any comment about that, I'm just here to talk about hockey," Ward said. "Everything else will be decided when everybody's done their due

diligence on it."

Ward said the Flames have not informed him anything more about his role except that he will be coaching his first NHL game. He has more than 25 years of coaching experience, and joined Peters' staff this season after spending the past three years as an assistant in New Jersey.

"We all feel for everybody involved. It's not a perfect situation," Ward said. "We'll worry about the next step once we get through this game today."

The Flames arrived in Buffalo just 1-5-2 in their past eight games. They open a three-game homestand Saturday against Ottawa. "All this extraneous stuff



In this Oct. 25, 2019, file photo, Calgary Flames coach Bill Peters watches practice in Regina, Saskatchewan, ahead of the NHL Heritage Classic outdoor hockey game against the Winnipeg Jets.

Associated Press

that's going on, we're just not even thinking about it," center Derek Ryan said. "As professional athletes, we go through different situations throughout the year where we have to block stuff out. And we're just trying to keep that as another one of those situations." □

NATO's aging eye in the sky to get a last overhaul

BRUSSELS (AP) — NATO and U.S. aircraft-maker Boeing agreed Wednesday a \$1 billion contract to refurbish the military alliance's aging fleet of surveillance planes, ensuring that they can continue to serve as the organization's eye in the sky until 2035.

The agreement, which was not actually signed Wednesday, was made public just days before U.S. President Donald Trump joins his NATO counterparts in London for a Dec. 4 summit marking the 70th anniversary of the world's biggest security alliance.

Trump is expected to make fresh demands on his European and Canadian partners to significantly step up defense spending. Critics say he is intent on drumming up business for the U.S. defense industry.

NATO's contract announcement provides a timely reminder that money is going to Boeing, although other European contractors will be involved in the refurbishment, which is expected to be completed by 2027.

Purchased in 1977 at the height of the Cold War,



NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, right, and the President of Boeing International, Sir Michael Arthur, hold up photos of an AWACS plane during a media conference at Melsbroek military airport in Melsbroek, Belgium, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019.

Associated Press

when Jimmy Carter became U.S. president and as a missile crisis with the then Soviet Union was beginning to fester in Europe, the 14 Boeing E-3 planes cost almost \$8 billion.

"The modernization will ensure NATO remains at the leading edge of technology," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters at a military airport outside Brussels, not

far from the alliance's new billion-dollar headquarters. He said the upgrade will provide the Airborne Warning and Control planes, known as AWACS, "with sophisticated new communications and networking capabilities so these aircraft can continue their vital mission and contribute to our security."

The planes were deployed in U.S. skies after the Sep-

tember 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington to help protect cities and nuclear power plants. They were used during the Russia-Ukraine crisis, to assist Turkey during the war in Syria and to help the coalition fighting the Islamic State group.

Beyond their role as NATO's eye in the sky, the planes can be used for air-policing, support in counter-ter-

rorism or evacuation operations, and provide help during natural disasters. They can stay aloft for 8 hours at a time and watch over an area of more than 120,000 square miles (310,000 square kilometers.) Developed years before the internet and mobile telephones were in common use, they seem almost quaint in an age where a pilotless drone has flown for 40 consecutive hours, and stealth technologies wreak havoc with many modern surveillance systems.

But the maintenance program will see their computer hardware and software upgraded to turn around double the intelligence information, data and imagery that they currently handle, whether it be of air, ground, sea or space origin.

The surveillance aircraft, which are based in Germany, are among the few military assets that NATO owns as an alliance. Member nations own all the other equipment. A new drone program has also been set afoot, with the first of five Global Hawks delivered to a base in Italy last week. □

Trump campaign, GOP groups attack Google's new ad policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's re-election campaign and other Republican election groups criticized tech giant Google on Tuesday for making it harder for political advertisers to target specific types of people. The GOP groups said the changes will lead directly to suppressing voter turnout and would "disproportionately" hurt Republican candidates.

Google has said that, beginning in January in the United States, advertisers will only be able to target political ads based on broad categories such as sex, age and postal code. Currently, ads can be tailored to more specific groups, such as political affiliation.

But the Trump campaign and Republican groups



President Donald Trump waves as he departs after pardoning Butter, the national Thanksgiving turkey, during a ceremony in the Rose Garden of the White House, Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

said Trump has built the greatest digital operation in politics, so Google's decision will "disproportionately impact both the Trump operation and all of the Republican candidates and organizations that derive

strength from it." "Google should immediately reverse its decision in order to ensure they do not suppress voter turnout during both the Democrat primaries and the 2020 general election," the GOP

groups said. Democratic political groups have also been critical of Google's new policy. "Tech companies should not reduce the power of the grassroots just because it is easier than addressing abuse on their platforms," said leaders of the Democratic National Committee and allied groups helping oversee Democratic congressional campaigns.

Social media companies are grappling with how best to prevent a repeat of 2016 when Russian operatives, masquerading as Americans, used targeted advertisements and intentionally falsified news articles to interact with and attempt to deceive tens of millions of social media users in the United States. Google's announcement follows the decision by

Twitter to ban political ads. Twitter also placed restrictions on ads related to social causes such as climate change or abortion rights. Twitter said the move would help reduce the flow of election-related misinformation. The Trump campaign protested that change as well but said Google's will have more impact.

"Much has been made of Twitter's equally concerning decision to ban political ads and suppress speech, but because advertising on that platform is ineffective and only a tiny percentage of Americans use Twitter, their impact is insignificant," the Trump campaign and GOP groups said in a joint release. "Google, however, is a serious platform with very deep reach across the entire country." □



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U.S. economy looking durable despite risks from trade conflict

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER

WASHINGTON (AP) — A series of government reports Wednesday cast a picture of a steadily growing U.S. economy, fueled by solid consumer spending and defying threats — at least for now — from a U.S.-China trade war and a global slowdown.

The Commerce Department estimated that the economy grew at a moderate 2.1% annual rate over the summer, slightly better than it had previously estimated. Other reports showed stronger consumer spending and a rebound in orders for big-ticket manufactured goods.

For the July-September quarter, the rise in the gross domestic product, the economy's total output of goods and services, exceeded the government's initial estimate a month ago of a 1.9% annual rate. A key reason is that businesses didn't cut back on investment spending as much as first estimated.

The economy had begun the year with a sizzling 3.1% GDP rate, fueled largely by the now-faded effects of tax cuts and increased government spending.

Many analysts worry that GDP growth is slipping in the current October-December quarter to a 1.4% annual rate or less as business investment weakens further. But most say the slowdown won't likely be as severe as it might have

been because consumers, who drive about 70 percent of the economy, are signaling that they will likely keep spending through the holiday shopping season and into next year. That spending is being supported by rising incomes and an unemployment rate that is near the lowest levels in a half century.

Consumer spending gained some momentum entering the final three months of the year, with spending rising by a 0.3% annual rate in October, the fastest monthly pace in three months.

And in the U.S. manufacturing sector, which has been struggling with global economic weakness and damage from the Trump administration's trade conflicts, orders for high-cost items rebounded in October by a 0.6% annual rate after having declined in September. Economists said the flurry of reports depict an economy that is regaining its footing after absorbing threats this year, from the global slowdown to the intensifying trade war with China, which has perpetuated uncertainties for businesses. Many companies have suspended plans to expand and invest.

Still, the stock market has set record highs on optimism that at least a preliminary U.S.-China trade agreement can be reached soon.

"We still expect GDP growth



In this Oct. 19, 2019, file photo Eldon Sylvester harvest soybeans in his field near Wamego, Kan. Associated Press

to slow a little further over the coming months, but the latest data suggest that the slowdown in the fourth quarter won't be quite as bad as we had previously feared," analysts at Capital Economics said in a note Wednesday.

The GDP report showed that business investment fell at a 2.7% annual rate in the July-September period, the second consecutive decline. Yet that drop was offset by a solid 2.9% gain in consumer spending.

Residential investment did rebound to an annual growth rate of 5.1% after six consecutive quarters of falling home investment. Analysts attribute that rebound in part to falling mortgage

rates. For the full year, economists think GDP will expand 2.3%, down sharply from a 2.9% GDP gain in 2018. Last year's increase had been fueled by the \$1.5 trillion tax cut that President Donald Trump pushed through Congress and billions in additional spending for the military and domestic programs.

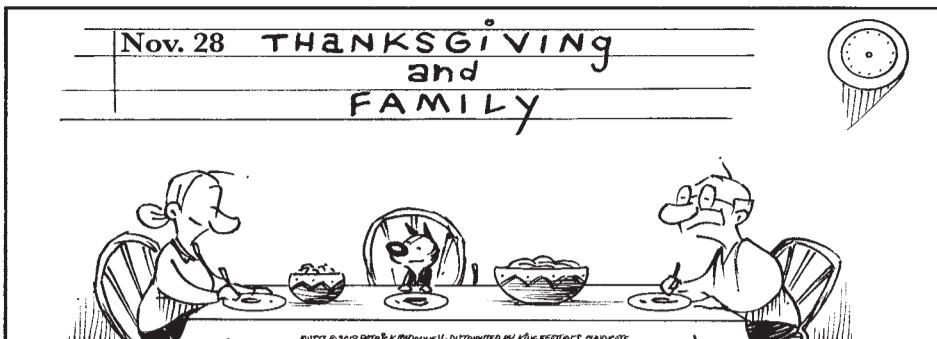
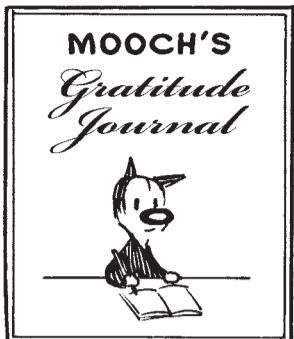
For 2020 as a whole, many economists envision growth of around 2%. That would be roughly the annual average that has prevailed since the Great Recession ended in 2009. But it is well below the 3%-plus economic growth rates that Trump pledged to achieve with his program of tax cuts,

deregulation and America-first trade policies.

As recently as several months ago, as U.S.-China trade tensions were escalating, global growth was slowing and financial markets were suffering losses, many analysts worried that the economy might be on the verge of recession.

But the Federal Reserve, which had raised rates four times in 2018, began cutting rates in July, giving a boost to interest-rate sensitive sectors of the economy. This month, after its third rate cut of the year, the Fed signaled that it would likely keep rates unchanged in coming months unless it saw signs of significant economic weakness. □

Mutts



6 Chix



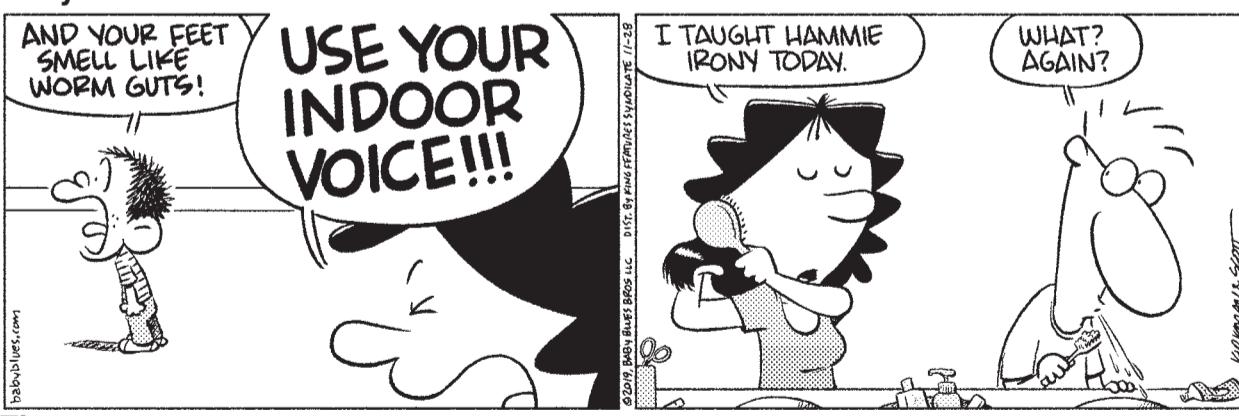
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

1	6	2	8								
2		5								3	
	6								4		1
4									9		5
	7										
3											
	4								2		
8								2		7	
	6	1		9							

Difficulty Level ★★★

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11/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

9	4	7	8	3	6	5	1	2			
5	8	2	7	1	4	6	3	9			
1	3	6	2	5	9	7	8	4			
3	7	1	6	2	8	9	4	5			
8	6	4	3	9	5	1	2	7			
2	9	5	4	7	1	8	6	3			
7	1	3	5	8	2	4	9	6			
4	5	8	9	6	3	2	7	1			
6	2	9	1	4	7	3	5	8			

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13		14		15						16			
17				18						19			
20		21								22			
				23					24	25			
26	27	28						29	30		31	32	33
34				35						36			
37			38					39			40		
40		41						42			43		
44								45			46		
								47					
48	49	50			51	52	53				54	55	
56				57						58		59	
60				61						62			
63				64						65			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/28/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

B	U	S	S	K	I	T	S	S	C	O	T
M	O	N	K	U	N	C	U	T	T	R	I
B	O	D	Y	T	E	E	N	Y	W	E	Y
A	T	E	S	U	E	D	H	A	W	K	S
R	O	A	R	S	M	E	L	S	A	V	G
S	A	V	A	G	E	S	T	S	G	E	T
E	L	A	T	E	S	H	A	L	U	P	S
A	I	L	S	S	P	E	L	B	R	I	E
T	A	U	C	H	A	S	E	L	A	N	C
S	E	C	R	E	T	R	E	T	R	E	S
R	E	C	R	E	R	E	R	E	R	E	S
S	T	R	A	P	M	A	I	D	S	O	F
P	R	E	F	E	R	B	L	E	D	U	A
A	U	N	T	O	I	L	E	R	A	Y	D
N	E	T	S	B	L	E	S	S	D	D	E

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11/28/19

3 As clumsy as __
4 Concurs
5 Facial hair
6 __ Scotia
7 Actress Barbara
8 Fidgety
9 Nostril divider
10 __ Breaky
Heart"; Billy Ray Cyrus hit
42 Ward off
43 Put in peril
45 Traveler's stop
46 Signal to an actor
47 Tush
48 Fashionable
51 Siliness
56 Days of __; olden times
57 Speedy
58 Enemies
60 Swine supper
61 Make joyful
62 Slangy reply
63 Camp shelter
64 __ from; talk out of
65 Lacking moisture
39 Be a witness in court
30 __ up; binds
31 Cairo's nation
32 India's currency
33 Use one's nose
35 Telegram
38 Like the pages of a much-used book
44 Agree to take
45 Cattle tender
47 Pricy hotel booking
59 2020, for one
59 Timid



In this Feb. 19, 2019, file photo, children line up to enter a tent at the Homestead Temporary Shelter for Unaccompanied Children in Homestead, Fla.

Associated Press

Report: U.S. lacked technology to track separated families

PHOENIX (AP) — The U.S. government separated thousands of families despite knowing it lacked the technology to document and track their whereabouts, according to a report released Wednesday by an internal government watchdog.

The problem resulted in some parents languishing in custody for weeks without knowing the location of their children.

The report by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General found the agency lacked proper systems when Border Patrol agents took children from parents set to be criminally prosecuted for illegal entry. Most of those separations

took place in the spring of 2018, although the Border Patrol conducted a pilot program the previous summer.

The problem meant agents had to delete prior entries documenting families who arrived together and replace them with references to "single adults" and "unaccompanied children." The three agencies dealing with the immigrant families also lacked a cohesive way of tracking each other's work, the report states.

An email Wednesday seeking comment from Homeland Security was not immediately returned.

More than 5,400 children were taken from their parents from July 1, 2017, to June 26, 2018. □

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each
building A with 30 weeks remain
La Cabana Beach and casino
2 BR wk 48 and 49 \$10,000
each
E- unit ocean front ground floor

Aruba Divi Phoenix
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building 7 on the 7th floor
32 weeks remain on each
\$24 K each

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3rd floor \$6500 each

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November 30

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How a small stretch of ocean stirred a conservation movement

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — From the surface, these 22 square miles of water are unexceptional.

But dip beneath the surface — go down 60 or 70 feet — and you'll find a spectacular seascape. Sponges, barnacles and tube worms cover rocky ledges on the ocean floor, forming a "live bottom." Gray's Reef is little more than a drop in the ocean 19 miles off the Georgia coast, but don't confuse size for significance. In one of his last official acts, President Jimmy Carter declared the reef a national marine sanctuary at the urging of conservationists who said its abundance of life was unique and worth saving for future generations.

For nearly 40 years, the U.S. government has protected the reef, home to more than 200 species of fish and an amazing array of nearly 1,000 different kinds of invertebrates. Recreational fishing and diving are allowed, but commercial fishing and other kinds of exploitation are not.

And Gray's Reef has served as a global inspiration. Following the lead of the U.S., other nations have designated similar sanctuaries and protected areas, which now cover about 6% of the world's oceans — a bonanza for researchers but, more importantly, an important tool for safeguarding the seas.

Doubts remain about how much of the ocean they can truly save. Last year was the hottest on record for the planet's oceans, and protected areas can't slow the biggest source of that warming — increasing greenhouse gases. The federal government says more than 90% of the warming that has occurred on the

planet over the past half-century has taken place in the ocean.

That has had dramatic effects in the waters that

"they're for our nation."

On a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration expedition to Gray's

dance of diversity of invertebrates," Roberson notes. Without that designation, the habitat could have vanished due to high-

U.S.'s protected areas. Bush created the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument off Hawaii and Obama extended it late in his presidency to a whopping 582,578 square miles. Smaller protected areas, such as the 5,000-square-mile Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument off New England, created by Obama in 2016, also have been established.

Nine years ago, the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity agreed to the goal of protecting 10% of the world's oceans by 2020. The UN said in 2017 that it was on its way to meeting that target and that protected areas "contribute substantial social, economic and environmental benefits to society" and "provide food security and livelihood security for some 300 million people."



Atlantic spadefish swim along the reef at Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Monday, Oct. 28, 2019, off the coast of Savannah, Ga.

Associated Press

cover 70% of Earth's surface. Scientists have tied the warming to the rise of sea levels, the disappearance of fish stocks and the bleaching of corals. The ocean also has become more acidic as humans have released higher concentrations of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and that jeopardizes valuable shellfish and the plankton that form the base of the food chain.

The supporters for the protected areas range from sustenance fishermen on the tiniest islands of the Pacific to researchers at the most elite institutions of academia.

"We're not protecting these areas just for ourselves," Roldan Muñoz, a research fishery biologist with the U.S.'s National Marine Fisheries Service, says during a research trip to the reef,

Reef, the federal research vessel Nancy Foster is packed with scientists conducting research on subjects ranging from whether invasive lionfish are present to how changing ocean conditions are affecting coral species.

Sanctuary research coordinator Kimberly Roberson and other scientists prepare to dive to collect data about what fish can be found in the area, while Craig Aumack, an assistant professor of biology at Georgia Southern University, peers through a microscope at algae.

Aumack notes that more types of seaweed and tropical species of fish are appearing on the reef as waters warm, like the odd-looking and colorful clown wrasse, a fish native to the Caribbean Sea that was found off the coast of Georgia this summer, most likely pushed hundreds of miles to the north by changing ocean temperatures.

The sanctuary is named after Milton "Sam" Gray, a biologist who studied it in the 1960s and identified it as an ecosystem worth saving — a reef not far from the U.S. coast that teemed with life, especially an "abun-

impact industries such as bottom-trawl commercial fishing, which are now prohibited there.

"In some ways, it's a test of what a marine protected area can do for surrounding areas," says Clark Alexander, director and professor at the University of Georgia Skidaway Institute of Oceanography and a former member of the sanctuary's advisory board. "It was sort of an ideal spot to preserve this kind of habitat and make it available for research and recreation."

In the decades since Gray's was established, large and more stringently protected zones have popped up all over the world.

Phoenix Island Protected Area, established in January 2008, covers more than 150,000 square miles off the tiny island republic of Kiribati and has been cited by scientists for bringing back species of fish in just over a decade. And an area nearly twice as large, the Rapa Nui Marine Protected Area, now surrounds Easter Island after its creation in 2018. Former U.S. Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama greatly expanded the

One commonly cited problem with the protected areas is the difficulty of enforcing rules that restrict commercial fishing and other intrusive industries from vast areas where few people ever venture, particularly in developing parts of the world where resources are limited.

Creating new protected areas without reducing fishing quotas won't save species, says Daniel Pauly, a professor of fisheries at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

And that is not a small issue, as some estimates say the number of fish in the ocean was reduced by half from 1970 to 2015, with warming oceans expected to add to that loss.

"Rebuilding will require not just new protected areas, but it will require quotas reduced," Pauly says.

Many scientists believe protecting broad swaths of the ocean simply might not be enough.

Last year, a group of researchers led by University of North Carolina marine ecologist John Bruno published a pessimistic study of the effects of climate change on the world's marine protected areas. □

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Jane Seymour on finding new love in her mid-60s: No Tinder

By AMANDA LEE MYERS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jane Seymour was in her mid-60s when her husband of 20 years decided it was over. The actress was floored.

"I had a long marriage and never thought it was going to end," the 68-year-old said recently while promoting the second season of Netflix's "The Kominsky Method," co-starring Michael Douglas and Alan Arkin.

"I'm going, 'I what? I date? What? Are you crazy? How does this work?'" Seymour said. "And then my kids would say, 'Mom, there's this thing called Tinder.' And I'm like, 'No, that's not going to happen.'"

But similar to her character in "The Kominsky Method" who runs into an old flame, fate intervened, and Seymour stumbled upon new romance. She has been with boyfriend and British film director David Green since 2014, about a year after her divorce from filmmaker James Keach, who directed "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman," Seymour's iconic role.

"Accidentally I ran into somebody I knew 38 years earlier who had been in a long marriage and his marriage ended," she said. "It wasn't his choice and my marriage ended, it wasn't my choice. And we randomly met accidentally 38 years later and realized we were free, and we've been together ever since. So I do not have to date."

Her experience drew Seymour to "The Kominsky Method," in which she plays Madelyn, who reconnects with Arkin's character (Norman) at a funeral following the deaths of their spouses. "I do get this whole thing of having a relationship with someone that's a contemporary, you know?" Seymour said. "We're both dealing with older children, exes and our future ... how long will we live? How can we stay healthy? How can we tick off our bucket list? Do we still want to work or do we feel like we've only just started, which is the case with me and David."

The Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning actress has four children and two step-children from her four marriages.

On top of acting and a busy family life, Seymour designs furniture and jewelry. Seymour recently had a one-woman art show in Washington, D.C., she writes books, runs a non-profit and produces movies.

"I do what I do because I love it," she said. "I don't think of it ever as a job ... It's called living. So I don't see retiring. You don't retire from life."

In fact, Seymour said her own children have a tough time keeping up with her.

"Inside of me, I'm 20. OK? I hang out with my 23-year-old boys, and the other day I was with them running around Europe and they said, 'Mom, can you slow down?'" she said. "I went, 'No, this is the pace at which I go and you are a third of my age, so you better just catch up with Mama.' I just love life."

With age, she said, has come "more of a freedom in kind of accepting who I am and what I look like and how I feel now than I did when I was younger, when I was trying maybe too hard to be something."

Seymour first caught the eye of audiences when she played Bond girl Solitaire in 1973's "Live and Let Die." Asked what it's like to be a sex symbol for nearly five decades and well into her 60s, Seymour scoffed.

"I've never thought of it that way," she said, noting that she and her Bond character were both virgins. "So hardly a sex symbol. I didn't know what sex was."

Since then, Seymour has posed in "Playboy" three times, in 1973, 1987 and last year, when the magazine said the actress "is more of a sex symbol now than when she played a Bond girl."

To Seymour, sexy means being comfortable in your own skin at every age. That's why she hasn't had plastic surgery, the actress said.

"I made a choice a long



This Oct. 6, 2019 photo shows actress Jane Seymour posing at The Four Seasons Hotel in Los Angeles to promote her role in "The Kominsky Method."

Associated Press

time ago not to do all the things that other people do because I'm not trying to look like me when I'm 20 or 30. It's kind of pointless," she said. "So, I just thought, let's put on a gray wig and have some wrinkles and actually play characters."

Seymour said she's one of the lucky actresses who've landed great roles after 40. "Hollywood's been pretty good to me, actually," she said. "Back in the day, they used to say if you're a woman and you're 40, you're done. Well, when I was 40, I got 'Dr. Quinn.' So that's when I started. And to be honest, right now I feel like this is my moment because there's all these amazing characters that I can now play without having to worry about whether I look like a leading lady."

Her eyes glimmered: "And I can still play it like a leading lady if I put my hair and makeup together." □



With deep sorrow ASD Management and Staff announces the passing of our colleague and dear friend

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This image released by Netflix shows Jonathan Pryce as Cardinal Bergoglio, right, and Anthony Hopkins as Pope Benedict in a scene from "The Two Popes."

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FRI 6:00 | 7:20 | 8:30 | 10:00
SAT 2:30 | 3:30 | 4:55 | 6:00 | 7:20 | 8:30 | 10:00
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In 'The Two Popes,' a buddy movie in vestments

By JAKE COYLE

Believers of all religions can agree on one thing: the Vatican is an unlikely place for a bromance.

The novelty of Fernando Meirelles' "The Two Popes" is right there in its title. There has only been one leader of the Roman Catholic Church going back centuries except in trying times of, you know, schism. But Meirelles' film, from a script by Anthony McCarten ("Darkest Hour," "The Theory of Everything") concerns a real moment in recent history during an unusual Vatican transition. In 2013, Pope Benedict XVI, formerly Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (played by Anthony Hopkins in the film), resigned from the papacy, the first to do so since the 15th century. "The Two Popes" takes place just before this momentous decision, as Pope Benedict is mulling it over. In the film, he summons the Argentinian Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio (Jonathan Pryce), his eventual successor as Pope Francis, from Buenos Aires to Rome for a tête-à-tête, or, if you will, a pope-à-pope.

The whole scenario is a work of imagination. There are few institutions with more private innerworkings than the Vatican. Usually, we get little more than a puff of white smoke. "The Two Popes" aims to go not just inside the Church but imagine a deep dialogue between the two pontiffs. "The Two Popes" is a fantasy of impossible intimacy.

It's also a riveting two-hander paced by two fabulous actors in ping-pong conversation. They are opposites: Pope Benedict is a conservative, a German and a loner who eats dinner in solitude. Bergoglio is

a reformer, an Argentine, an avid soccer watcher and, gasp, an ABBA listener. When they meet at the papal summer retreat, their conversation quickly turns into a theological volley on matters of sacrament, homosexuality and footwear. "We are no longer part of this world," Bergoglio says of the Church. "Change is compromise," retorts Benedict. "Nothing is static in nature," replies Bergoglio. "God is unchanging," says Benedict.

Meirelles, the Brazilian filmmaker of "City of God" and "The Constant Gardner," captures their first meeting while walking the estate's grounds with amplified bird song all around them. They may disagree on nearly everything, but their dichotomy is a kind of harmony. Their divisions, of course, reflect those nearly everywhere else today, between progress and retreat. And there is considerable comfort in exploring opposite perspectives not through Congressional or Parliamentary rivals but between two kindly old men in a garden. It's nice to think that such barriers can be broken down amicably — as they are in "The Two Popes" — over pizza and Fanta.

For that to happen, "The Two Popes" pushes some darker concerns to the side while magnifying others. Sexual abuse among the clergy is briefly discussed before it largely recedes, though you could argue the subject hovers just beneath their talks as the unspoken impetus for Benedict's retirement.

Who's side we should be on is never in doubt. All of the life force is with Bergoglio, an almost saintly figure in the film, as he is in many

other representations, too. But it's the lively, stimulating interplay between Pryce (radiant) and Hopkins (exquisitely crafty) that gives "The Two Popes" its forward movement, propelling the film less by intellectual debate than by the thrall of an unfolding friendship.

As their conversation continues in the Sistine Chapel (recreated at Italy's Cinecitta Studios), "The Two Popes" turns into a movie not about a power struggle, at all, but a grappling of faith. Benedict and Bergoglio dispense with their divisions and turn inward in self-reflection, revealing their own wrestling with doubt, fallibility and faith. This section of soul searching includes a lengthy flashback to Bergoglio's potentially complicit inaction during the junta rule of late '70s, early '80s Argentina. The look backward adds greater dimension to Bergoglio's character, but it hampers the film's locked-in double act. Benedict's reflections — including an achingly tender confession he gives to Bergoglio — come without flashback and are all the more powerful because of it.

"The Two Popes" might promulgate an optimistic portrait of the Catholic Church and its leaders. But in these sweetly sincere scenes, you forget Benedict and Bergoglio are pontiff and pontiff-to-be. And the moment of respite from the world's arguments and divisions feels like a benediction.

"The Two Popes," a Netflix release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for thematic content and some disturbing violent images. Running time: 126 minutes. Three stars out of four. □

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Actor Lin-Manuel Miranda encourages shopping small

NEW YORK (AP) — With the holiday shopping season upon us, actor and "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda is encouraging people to take part in Small Business Saturday, an effort to shop at local, independent stores on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Growing up in the neighborhood of Washington Heights, the award-winning actor and "Hamilton" creator said small businesses were a staple in the neighborhood.

"I think New York City is better when it's full of small businesses. I think the world is better. I grew up in a neighborhood that was dotted with small businesses," Miranda said at a recent pop-up shop put on by American Express, creator of Small Business Saturday. "That's a part of what makes New York special and makes the world special, is those places you



In this Sept. 22, 2019 file photo, Lin-Manuel Miranda arrives at the 71st Primetime Emmy Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

can't find anywhere else in the world," he said. This year, he also became a small business owner by teaming up with a group that includes theater owner James Nederlander to purchase the Drama Book Shop, a century-old store in the theater district that was in danger of closing due to high rent prices. The new location nearby will open in March. □

Taiwanese-Canadian model-actor Godfrey Gao dies on set

HONG KONG (AP) — Taiwanese-Canadian model-actor Godfrey Gao has died after suffering an apparent heart attack while on set in China.

Gao was filming a sports reality show in the eastern Chinese city of Ningbo on Wednesday when he died. His agency, JetStar Entertainment, confirmed his death on its official Facebook page.

The 35-year-old was filming "Chase Me," a Chinese variety series, when he reportedly fell while running. He was rushed to a hospital where he was pronounced dead, according to his agency.

The Taiwan-born Gao initially rose to fame by becoming the first Asian male model for the luxury brand Louis Vuitton. He acted in



In this August 12, 2013, file photo, actor Godfrey Gao arrives at the world premiere of "The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones" at the ArcLight Cinemas Dome in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

numerous television dramas and movies, including a role in the Hollywood film "The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones." His body will be transported Wednesday to Taipei, Taiwan's capital. □



A South Korean man pays tribute to K-pop star Goo Hara at a memorial altar at the Seoul St. Mary's Hospital in Seoul, Monday, Nov. 25, 2019.

Associated Press

Singer Goo Hara's death shines light on dark side of K-pop

By JUWON PARK
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

The death of South Korean singer and actress Goo Hara, whose body was found at her home in Seoul this week, has again shone a spotlight on pressures that stars, especially females, face in the cutthroat K-pop industry and in deeply conservative South Korean society.

Goo's death at age 28 came less than two months after the death of Choi Jin-ri, or Sulli, another K-pop star and Goo's close friend. Experts say both Goo and Choi faced extensive cyberbullying and sexual harassment from the public and media throughout their careers, which took a toll on their mental health. Police say they are still investigating Goo's death and found a "pessimistic note" at her home.

Once popular mostly in Asia, K-pop has spread far beyond South Korea, thanks to wildly popular groups such as "BTS" and "Blackpink."

Goo debuted in 2008 as part of the five-member girl group Kara, which shot almost immediately to fame and helped pioneer the K-pop global phenomenon. She later launched a suc-

cessful solo career in South Korea and Japan.

Sulli began her career around the same time as Goo, debuting as a member of the girl band f(x) in 2009. She also had multiple acting roles after stepping away from her singing career.

Goo made headlines when she took her former boyfriend, Choi Jong-bum, to court last year. Choi claimed to have been assaulted by her, while Goo accused him of threatening to release a sex video of her.

During the dispute, Goo's Korean agency didn't renew her contract. A court sentenced Choi to 1 1/2 years in prison on charges of coercion and assaulting and blackmailing Goo. The jail term was suspended, keeping him out of prison. Choi appealed and the trial is still ongoing.

K-pop is highly competitive, with dozens of groups debuting each year. Industry experts have long warned about the dark side of the scandal-ridden industry.

Aspiring artists, as young as their early teens, train for years. Only a few debut and even fewer are commercially successful. The likelihood of their success increases if they sign with

a handful of top entertainment agencies.

The industry is known to have strict rules for their stars — including dating bans, spartan training and diets, and sometimes slave-like and unfair contracts. Experts say the industry has additional requirements for its female artists, unspoken rules reflective of South Korea's patriarchal society.

Park Hee-A, a K-pop journalist and writer of "Interviews with K-pop Stars," said female stars are bound by rigid societal rules of femininity.

"Some female idol members have gotten ostracized for not smiling in a television show and reading a book about feminism that contradicts male-dominated patriarchal South Korean society," Park told The Associated Press.

Expectations of purity and chastity govern women in South Korea. Goo faced a barrage of hate comments following media reports about the sex video despite her being the victim of revenge porn.

"The topic of sex is taboo in South Korea compared to western countries," said Tae-Sung Yeum, attending psychiatrist at Gwanghwamun Forest Psychiatric Clinic. □

Home buyouts split apart a flood-prone Missouri town

By DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

MOSBY, Mo. (AP) — Tammy Kilgore raised the giant claw of a John Deere excavator high in the air, then slammed it down on the roof the house where she had spent nearly her entire adult life.

The shingles crunched, but not much else. So she did it again, and again — each time taking a bigger bite with the mouth-like claw, until the roof above her bedroom caved. Lumber and siding fell to the ground.

"Oh, my goodness!" she exclaimed.

The machine's operator had given Kilgore the chance to start demolishing her own home. It's one of dozens of flood-prone houses being torn down in this small riverside town northeast of Kansas City under a federally funded buyout program intended to reduce the risks and costs from future flooding.

When the voluntary buyouts are complete, nearly



In this photo taken Monday, Nov. 18, 2019, vehicles pass by Mosby, Mo. About half the homes in the flood-prone town are being demolished as part of a voluntary buyout program.

Associated Press

This year's devastating flooding in the Midwest, which caused billions of dollars of damage in more than a dozen states, is likely to lead to more home buyouts. And more could be

packing. But she was back in town on a cool November morning to watch her old house come down. As Kilgore climbed into the excavator, longtime neighbor Betty Cazzell watched somberly from across the chain-link fence where the two would often chat. Cazzell, 86, opted against applying for a buyout. She didn't want the hassle of leaving a town where she spent all but 10 years of her life.

"I've seen some changes, but they've been kind of gradual," Cazzell said sadly. "This is kind of like a bomb exploding or something — it's just all at once, and my neighbors are gone."

The 2010 census counted 190 people in Mosby. But that seems generous these days.

Mosby began as a railroad town in 1887 nestled along the Fishing River, a tributary of the Missouri River. It grew to have its own school, bank and grocery store, but all have since closed. Financial strains led Mosby to disband its police department in 2015. That same year, the town was flooded three times in less than six weeks. Town officials decided in 2016 to apply to the state for a nearly \$3 million buyout funded largely through the Federal

Emergency Management Agency.

About 50 homeowners said they were interested. It took until this summer before they received buyout offers, and about two-thirds have taken the deal.

But for some, such as 83-year-old Elmer Sullivan, the offer just wasn't enough to afford a house somewhere else.

Sullivan was offered \$20,000 for the modest home that

said, holding the buyout documents.

Milton and Sally Denney took the buyout for her mother's old house, which had sat vacant since her death several years ago. But he said they turned down a \$65,000 offer for their own home because it was "nowhere near enough money."

For 65-year-old Sally Denney, who's spent her whole life in Mosby, the buyouts have stirred a sense of disbelief, anger, frustration and fear that her beloved town could eventually be gone.

"I don't know that it's really all sunk in yet," she said. But "it's gonna hit, and it's gonna be very sad."

Mosby's revenue is likely to shrink as properties once on the tax rolls become empty plots owned by the city, Mayor Harlin Clements said. The terms of the buyouts prohibit future development.

Though buyouts are disruptive, the U.S. saves \$7 in avoided costs for every \$1 spent through the federally funded grants to acquire or demolish flood-prone buildings, according to a study for the National Institute of Building Sciences.

"I can tell you — mitigation works, it's very successful."



In this photo taken Monday, Nov. 18, 2019, Tammy Kilgore sits in front of her former home in Mosby, Mo. before it was demolished as part of a voluntary buyout program in the flood-prone town.

Associated Press

half of Mosby will be gone, leaving a patchwork of holdout homes and bare lots.

Similar buyout programs have played out in numerous communities ravaged by floods and hurricanes. Over the past three decades, federal and local governments have spent more than \$5 billion to buy tens of thousands of vulnerable properties across the U.S., according to an Associated Press analysis.

necessary nationwide as climate change leads to rising seas and more frequent and intense rainstorms.

For those facing buyouts, the process can be both a blessing and curse. It can provide a fresh start for flood-weary residents who choose to leave but also sever a sense of community for those left behind. And the process can be stressful: Kilgore, 56, suffered a heart attack in September after a long day of

he said he bought for \$17,000 three decades ago. Since then, he put on a new roof and siding and spent \$4,000 rebuilding a garage.

"This is ridiculous. This offer here ain't no good," Sullivan

It saves the pain and anguish of people that get flooded," former FEMA Administrator James Lee Witt said during a recent session hosted by The Pew Charitable Trusts on ways to reduce local flood risks. □



In this photo taken Monday, Nov. 18, 2019, Tammy Kilgore watches while her former home is demolished as part of a voluntary buyout in flood-prone Mosby, Mo.

Associated Press